Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

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'Permanent CW program in Congress difficult'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said Friday it is important to come to an agreement "at home" on what the CNMI's contract worker needs are as stakeholders differ on whether to pursue a permanent or an extended contract worker program, ahead of formal talks with the White House on the issue and a potential push of legislation through U.S. Congress.

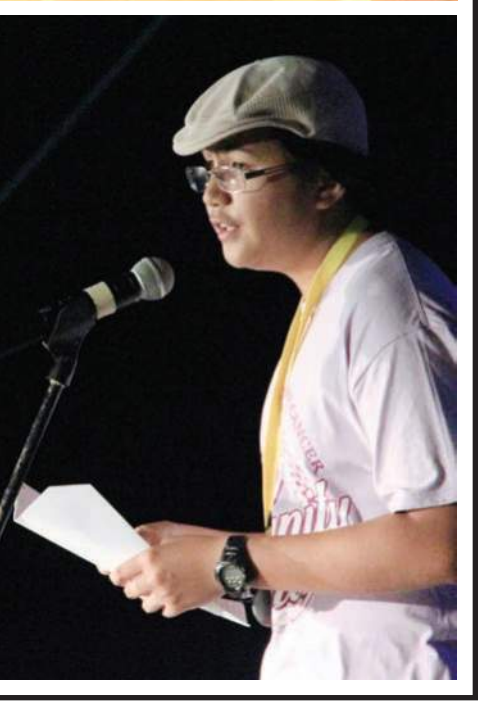
Sablan

Sablan also said it is important that consultation with the White House is successful, " so that we have the backing of the President" in changes proposed to Congress for the CW program.

Top business leaders advising the government on economic policy on Tuesday voted to recommend that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres pursue a permanent program of some 18,000 workers to meet the project development needs of

See CW on Page 4

JON PEREZ/MACKENZIE PEREZ
Kagman High School student Alfredo Napalinga Ngalongalo Jr., left, and other youth participants light up the luminaries, while Angel Ray T. Guerrero, inset, tells his experience in battling and surviving cancer to the crowd that attended the 2016 Marianas March Against Cancer last Friday at the Hopwood Junior High School grounds.



IN 2016 MMAC

Angel Ray recalls battle with cancer

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"You're going home" were the three best words that Angel Ray T. Guerrero heard following an almost two-year treatment in Hawaii for medullablastoma, a type of brain tumor that's commonly found in males 8 to 18 years old. He was 12 when he was diagnosed with cancer.

"That was one of the best feelings in the world to me; to pack up my things and come home," said Guerrero after calling Kapiolani Women's and Children's Clinic his home for 15 months. "It was no vacation. I wish I was on the beach getting my tan, instead I'm undergoing chemo."

The University of Hawaii Cancer Center in Honolulu said the type of

See CANCER on Page 4

Rota mayor 'hopeful' M/V *Luta* will start service soon

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

ROTA—Two months has passed since the arrival of M/V *Luta* in the CNMI after much delay, and it still has yet to commence providing greatly needed and promised services in shipping goods and commuting passengers for Rota and the rest of the CNMI.

Atalig

Instead of being open to provide services to the general public, M/V *Luta* is being chartered by private individuals.

Currently, it is being chartered by businessman Robert Toelkes, said to be a consultant for Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog who was among the main parties involved in bringing M/V *Luta* to the CNMI.

The vessel is shipping equipment to Tinian where Toelkes was said to have won a contract to

See MAYOR on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Terrence Blanca of Saipan Southern High School won first place at the NMI district level for the 2016 Ninth Circuit Civics contest.

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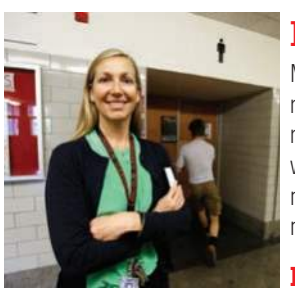

NATION
Many U.S. public schools already are balancing the civil rights of transgender students with any concerns that classmates, parents and community members might have.

PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE
Professional wrestler Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka suffered so many blows to the head during his long career that he now suffers from dementia and is mentally incompetent to stand trial.

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Local

Star Marianas Air to fly Saipan-Guam daily

Star Marianas Air will be providing airlift between Saipan and Guam daily beginning in June, offering much needed option and alternative for the said route.

The airline announced that it plans to begin non-stop Saipan-Guam flights, twice daily, starting June 1.

"We are very excited to begin offering direct service between Saipan and Guam, and look forward to providing an efficient inter-island transportation option," Star Marianas Air president Shaun Christian said.

The Tinian-based commuter airline will use twin engine Piper Super-Chieftains to fly the route and will operate from the Commuter Terminal on Saipan and the Light Aircraft Commuter Facility on Guam.

Christian explained that Star Marianas Air's flights aim to provide a new option for inter-island travelers and is not intended to compete with the existing service offered by United Express/Cape Air.

"United Express/Cape Air provides a much needed service by operating flights from the CNMI that connect with flights beyond Guam. What we are offering is an alternative service for inter-island travelers that primarily want to travel between the islands of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam," Christian said.

As Star Marianas will not operate from the main terminals in Guam and Saipan's international airports, it said that passengers can reduce their time spent at the airport by avoiding long security lines and customs processing times.

"We recognize that most travelers don't want to spend any more time at the airport than they have to. They would prefer to be at their destination," Christian said, "By utilizing smaller commuter aircraft and operating from

See STAR on Page 4

Attention, Honda & Acura Drivers.

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2010-2014 Insight	2013-2016 ILX
2003-2011 Element	2013-2014 ILX Hybrid
2002-2004 Odyssey	2010-2013- ZDX
2003-2008 Pilot	
2006-2014 Ridgeline	

HONDA

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IN 1ST CYBERSTALKING CASE IN CNMI

Brian Palacios gets 3 years, five months jail sentence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Brian Tebuteb Palacios was slapped in federal court on Friday with a sentence of three years and five months imprisonment for his conviction of cyberstalking when he threatened, through Facebook messages, to rape and kill a woman and "smash" the face of her husband.

"The court emphasizes that the severe emotional distress that you caused was very real," said U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona in imposing the high end of 41 months in the sentencing guidelines range on the 27-year-old Palacios.

Palacios was given credit for time served of 156 days. He has been in detention since he was arrested on Dec. 10, 2015.

Manglona noted that this is the first cyberstalking case in the CNMI and that she hopes it will be the last.

Palacios pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with cyberstalking, an offense that carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, a $250,000 fine, a one-year supervised release, and a $100 special assessment.

» Judge sends message to community that use of Facebook cannot be taken lightly

When Palacios committed the offense, he was under probation in Superior Court.

Manglona said the use of social media such as Facebook cannot be taken lightly.

Manglona said what Palacios did was quite disheartening and unbelievable.

"You used technology in a negative way," the judge told Palacios.

Manglona said during a five- to six-month period, Palacios used different fictitious Facebook profiles in harassing and threatening not only this woman, but her husband, her family, and even his own "blood family."

Manglona said Palacios wanted to be someone that the woman could trust by casting himself as her protector.

"All along it was you. What an ultimate betrayal!" the judge pointed out.

Manglona said it is important that Palacios will be examined for mental health issue.

After serving the prison term, Palacios will be placed on three years of supervised release.

During the supervised release, the defendants will be required to submit to drug testing, stay away from three victims, among other conditions.

Palacios was ordered to pay $100 in court assessment fee and restitution in the amount of $1,235.32 to one victim and $600 to the second victim.

See BRIAN on Page 4

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Man'amko gets free haircut from 'Queen' candidates

Thirty *man'amko* received free haircuts from the Queen of the Pacific candidates last Friday at the Office on Aging in China Town. More than 30 *man'amko* availed of the free haircut done by the candidates, from 9am to 10:30am as part of their community service.

Fourteen are vying for the Queen of the Pacific crown, a contest for transgender candidates. The coronation night is on June 11 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort with doors opening at 5pm with tickets cost $10 each.

The contest—with the theme "Respect, Restore, and Save Our Natural Resources—is also a fundraising event with all proceeds going to the Commonwealth Health Center volunteers.

Pageant director Ernie Molina said the event is a part of the June 12 Pistang Pinoy celebration of the Philippine Independence Day. The free haircut service is also their post-Mother's Day offering to the female *man'amko*.

He added that, with environmental awareness as the main theme, they would also have a cleanup drive on May 22, a Sunday. Details of the cleanup will be announced before the event.

Best in costume, evening gown, and swimwear are some of the special awards up for grabs, while the question and answer portion will be part of the criteria for judging.

The costume of the candidates must reflect the theme with indigenous or recycled the materials to be used. ***(Jon Perez)***

CANCER

From Page 1

cancer that hit Guerrero more likely affects people within the Pacific region.

Guerrero was the guest speaker of Friday night's 2016 Marianas March Against Cancer, where hundreds showed their support to cancer survivors like him and to friends and family members that lost the battle to the dreaded disease.

The now 21-year-old said he was just a regular kid growing up who played basketball, enjoyed going to the beach, and being with his family and friends. He also had his life planned, either venturing off more into basketball or join the U.S. Air Force

But in August 2007, his and his family's life took a 180-degree turn. Headaches, vomiting, and lack of appetite were the symptoms that he first felt so he underwent a check up at Dr. Norma Ada's Clinic, but they still had no idea what was wrong with him that time.

After his check up, he went to Guam for an MRI. After the MRI, he was on another plane, but this time going to Honolulu to be admitted at Kapiolani. "And that was it, I didn't know that the next year and half was going to be my own personal hell."

Guerrero added that, when he was still a cancer patient, he underwent six surgeries including a major operation on his brain to partially remove a tumor almost the size of a tennis ball since it was spreading rapidly toward his brain.

"It was a 50-50 procedure. I could come out normal, and when I say normal mean I'd come out the way I went in or I could come out with severe brain damage. I also had to undergo radiation for 32 days and chemotherapy for a whole year. They gave me weekends off to rest," he said.

"Come to think of it, I think they forgot to tighten some screws while they were in there," Guerrero added with a laugh.

He was the first to donate a sample of his tumor to UHCC for research. "I pray that with that, they were able to learn more about it. I haven't heard anything back yet, but I hope one day my struggle would help make a difference in someone else's life."

He then thanked his parents, Rep. Joseph Lee Pan and Victoria Guerrero, his brother and three sisters, and relatives and friends who helped and supported him in his battle with cancer. "There is no thank you and words big enough to ever show how thankful I am that you never gave up on me."

MMAC awardees

In the two-day 2016 MMAC at the Hopwood Junior High School field, Team Bodig won three awards after having the most money raised (family category), most luminaries sold, and most team spirit prior to MMAC. Team Lady Diann Torres Foundation/ Northern Marianas College was the nonprofit and school that raised the most money as well as being named the Rookie of the Year.

The Mt. Carmel School Jedi Knights (school), Pacific Islands Club (corporate), CNMI (government/nonprofit), and BSI/Chacha Lancheros (corporate and school) were the other winners in the most money raised category.

Team Talaabwogh StaR earned the Best Tent and Most Team Spirit awards, while Tan Holdings/Kagman High School topped the Best Baton category. Team Northern Mariana Islands Football Association had the most laps, while Team Mariana Resorts & Spa/ Hopwood Junior High School were the Rising Stars.

Tribe Marianas, Faiye, Joeten Dolphins, 3J For Life, IT&E/Saipan Southern High School. Crisis Counseling Program, Grace Christian Academy, and MyPros were the other competing teams.

The Marianas March Against Cancer is the Commonwealth Cancer Association's annual signature fundraising event.

CW

From Page 1

Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. A "great majority" of the Strategic Economic Development Council had voted to make this recommendation based on the "future number of operating, staff required" for the islands development plans, SEDC chair Bob Jones had told *Saipan Tribune* Thursday.

Some government officials, though, believe a request for about 15,000 workers for an extension of 10 years would be more feasible.

Sablan, for his part, said he would not second-guess whether Torres should accept the recommendation or not. The governor has already included the CW program on his agenda for 902 consultations with the U.S. President's special representative, he said, and he is sure that Torres would consider the council's recommendation, along with what he has agreed to with the Legislature and what he thinks best for the long-term interest for the islands.

Torres' team, through the NMI covenant, is expected to take lead of these talks and push for an agreement with the White House on a worker program package moving forward. If talks are successful, then that would shift responsibility to Sablan for legislative action.

"In preparation for that time, or in case no agreement is reached in 902," Sablan said," I have been holding listening sessions here at home to be sure I understand all the reasons for and against extending the CW Program beyond 2019, and, if it is extended, for how long and how many workers would be needed." Sablan has already met with both houses of the Legislature, members of SEDC, Torres, and plans to meet with Torres again, U.S. and CW workers, businesses, and nonprofit groups.

"The questions we need to answer about the future of the Commonwealth are not easy," Sablan said. "So far, I do not hear any complete agreement among the groups I have been listening to."

Even if we do reach agreement among ourselves here in the Marianas, I tell everyone, getting Congress to extend the CW program will not be easy," he added. "…Changing CW, which was originally supposed to be temporary and transitional, to be permanent instead—that would be even more difficult." Sablan says he bases this "on experience" with pushing immigration issues in Congress for the last eight years, including "already getting the program extended for five years" in Public Law 113-235 in 2014.

BRIAN

From Page 3

Before the sentence was handed down, Palacios told the court that he was sincerely apologizing to the victims and to the whole community.

"I'm ashamed with my action," Palacios said. His parents sat quietly in the courtroom.

Attorney Steven Pixley served as court-appointed counsel for Palacios.

According to special assistant U.S. attorney Mohammad Khatib, Palacios used Facebook, an online social networking website, to harass and intimidate the woman.

Khatib said the defendant did not use his real identify, used fake names and personas, and invented at least four fictitious Facebook profiles to accomplish his harassment and intimidation.

Palacios then used the fictitious Facebook profiles he invented to send multiple threatening Facebook messages to the woman and her family.

The Facebook messages, Khatib said, included threats to stalk, abduct, rape, shoot, and kill the woman.

One of the messages, the prosecutor said, threatened to "smash" the face of the woman's husband.

Palacios' harassment and intimidation began in April 2015 and continued through September 2015.

"This pattern of conduct had the deleterious effect of placing victim-1 (woman) in reasonable fear of death and serious bodily injury," Khatib said, adding that such conduct also caused her to suffer substantial emotional distress.

The prosecutor said Palacios intentionally threatened and harassed the woman in order to cause her to be afraid, hoping to cast his actual self in the role of her protector, and thereby create a rift between her and her husband.

Khatib said Palacios also attempted to prevent and thwart a law enforcement investigation into his harassment and intimidation.

Khatib said using his actual Facebook profile, Palacios told the woman's family not to report the threats and harassment to police.

The defendant also told the woman's family to tell her not to report the harassment to police.

UFO prepares for Pistang Pinoy

The United Filipino Organization is busy planning for this year's celebration of the Philippine Independence Day on June 12, Sunday. The annual Pistang Pinoy (Filipino Fiesta) will be the highlight of the festivities at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

UFO president Bong Malasarte said a flag raising ceremony at 7am would start the Philippine Independence Day celebration with Philippine honorary consul Eli Arago and members of the Filipino community.

Several officers and members of Emon Lodge 179 of the Free and Accepted Masons will be carrying the flag to the flagpole and help Arago in raising it. Other details of the flag raising ceremony are being finalized and would be announced before June 12.

Celebration would then shift to the Marianas Business Plaza at 9am where booths, games, and entertainment program will be held. There would also be a food festival of Filipino dishes.

Malasarte said they are planning to hold a *Pasayaw* or dance party at night similar to those being held in provinces in the Philippines during fiestas. Other details are being finalized.

The dance party will be like a masquerade ball where participants would wear a mask. Males would stand on one side then get female partners of their choice.

A fee of $1 will be charged for every dance music played is being proposed with the funds collected to be used in various community projects by UFO. ***(Jon Perez)***

MAYOR

From Page 1

clear up an investor's property on Tinian.

M/V *Luta*'s agent is Viola Hocog-Atalig, daughter of Lt. Gov. Hocog, of the Rota Terminal & Transfer Co., Inc. Lt. Gov. Hocog is part owner of RT&T and has previously served as its president.

According to Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig, they are concerned that M/V *Luta* hasn't started yet but they are hopeful that the services will start soon.

"As I understand, they are working on the company that is supposed to take care of the inbound-outbound of goods," Atalig said.

"Of course we have to be concerned. But I hope for and we look forward to it to start regularly. The fact that it is within the Marianas already, we look forward to it operating," he added.

Atalig said they are in communication with Luta Mermaid LLC regarding the situation of the vessel.

With the M/V *Luta* still not offering services to the people of Rota, they are still dependent on the barge of Saipan Shipping that comes to Rota every other month or sometimes three months, according to Atalig.

The M/V Luta *was* supposed to reduce the waiting time for shipments to come in since the barge is having a hard time to come in to the dock.

He added that some merchants are hiring private boats to ship goods while some are air flown.

Asked if the people have been patient with regards to M/V *Luta*, Atalig said, "I think the fact that it's here in the Marianas, they are hopeful that it's going to start soon."

Just last week, a taxpayer's lawsuit was filed against Hocog and Department of Finance Secretary Larissa C. Larson over the alleged adoption of a Rota Legislative Delegation resolution without public notice that purportedly authorized payment of $400,000 to a private company owned by relatives of Hocog.

Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution 19-03 was approved "to authorize the Department of Finance to pay for fuel, lubrication, and other costs necessary for the maiden voyage of the vessel from Louisiana to its new home port on Rota, and to provide for the personnel and operational costs of the Office of the Mayor of Rota."

Atalig said he has not been briefed regarding the lawsuit, but he is "curious to know what's going on" and will be discussing it with Hocog.

STAR

From Page 2

commuter facilities, our goal is to minimize our customer's "airport experience" and get them to their destinations quickly and safely."

In addition to the new Saipan-Guam direct service, Star Marianas also announced that it will be adding a second daily passenger flight between Guam and Rota in the afternoon.

The company is also finalizing a schedule for daily cargo flights throughout the Mariana Islands and offering same day arrival options for cargo.

Star Marianas has a fleet of 11 aircraft, five of which are Piper Super-Chieftains and six are Piper Cherokee Sixes. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

CUC: No law applies to us

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ROTA—The board of directors of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. raised questions regarding their establishing laws specifically for their honorarium and the authority of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission over the corporation during a board meeting held on Rota last Friday.

The board declined to state why there was a concern regarding the honorarium that they are receiving as directors, however, on one of their discussions, board chair Adelina Roberto raised a question to legal counsel James Sirok based on a provision in their enabling act that states how CUC shall set its compensation, wage and salary.

"The corporation shall make its own compensation, wage, and salary scale. When it said own compensation, does that include the board?" Roberto asked Sirok.

Sirok answered that the particular provision was only for employees, however Roberto said they should look further into the law.

"That's the reason why I think we should look into this and dissect this and just…because it doesn't say just wages and salary scale. Our wage and salary scale, I see that with our own employees, but our compensation," Roberto said.

Based on CUC's enabling act, "board members shall receive such compensation as required by law."

» Utilities board questions establishing law, honorarium rates

"You only get compensated for the honorarium and travel as policy of the executive branch," Sirok said, "There is a law and the law only allows you to receive honorarium."

When Roberto asked if the law specifically say how much the compensation should be, Sirok said yes.

"That's the law that spells out $30 days for half day, $60 days for full days," Sirok said.

Despite this, board members were not satisfied with Sirok's answer.

Director Joe Torres went further to state that "there's no law that applies" to the CUC board.

"They are not citing which law that we are… Because, when they abolished the board back then, everything went…there's no law for the board, right?" Torres said.

"Do you think they should cite what law we should be based on? Because there's no law that applies to us," he added.

Just last November, the Office of the Public Auditor found that CUC is not in compliance with the law and its established policies with regards to travel.

OPA's preliminary results of their initial survey raised five points of violation including the board adopting travel rules that are inconsistent with the law. OPA, in their communication with CUC, stated that CUC's enabling statute provides that the travel rules and per diem rates for Board members shall be the same as those established by the Executive Branch.

CPUC authority

On an earlier discussion, Roberto made the same statement on bringing their concerns to the Legislature.

CUC board members were discussing the levelized energy adjustment clause, when they shifted to the authority of CPUC itself.

"There is provision in our enabling statute that says we're under the authority of PUC," Sirok said.

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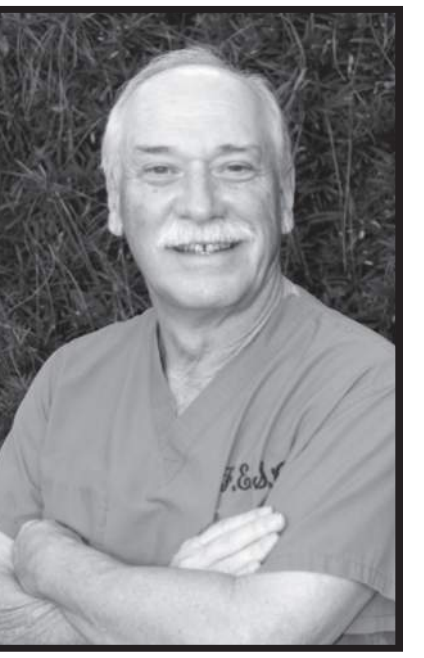

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Logo & Slogan Contest
Win up to $150 per category.
In Celebration of Trades Month
April 2016
We are seeking your help
in designing a logo and
a slogan to go with it.
Incorporate the Chamorro & Carolinian
Heritage and Culture
As well as The Trades offered at NMTI
For more information, please contact:
Norisa Camacho or Ross Manglona at
(670) 235-6684
or visit our Facebook Page #Nmti Cnmi.
Entries must be submitted to the NMTI Office
in Lower Base from Monday thru Friday 8-5:00pm
before Friday, May 31, 2016 at 5:00pm.
Winners will be announced on Monday, June 6, 2016.

Blanca tops Ninth Circuit Civics essay, video tilt

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Terrence Blanca of Saipan Southern High School receives the first place award for the NMI district level in the 2016 Ninth Circuit Civics contest, an essay and video competition for high school students. Blanca and two other top winners were handed on Friday cash prizes and certificates from U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, right, U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy, and attorney Richard Miller.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Terrence Blanca of Saipan Southern High School won first place at the NMI district level for the 2016 Ninth Circuit Civics contest, an essay and video competition for high school students.

Gio Hur of Saipan International School bagged the second place award, while Mary Grace Tiglao of Marianas High School received third place.

Blanca, Hur, and Tiglao were awarded cash prizes and certificates. Their winning pieces will go on to compete in the Ninth Circuit contest.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy announced in court on Friday the top three winners.

Manglona, Kennedy, and law clerk Richard Miller also handed certificates for participation to five other students.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI conducted the preliminary judging for the contest.

Blanca, 18, said he feels excited winning first place in the district level.

Blanca said he turned in his essay of less than 750 words last April for a school assignment.

He said the essay was assigned to them from one of their language arts teachers, who recommended that they also submit their essays in the competition.

Blanca remembered that he did not get a high grade for the assignment.

"I said, oh, why not just turned it in and see what happens. I'm surprised that I did well," said Blanca, who prepared his essay for a week.

Manglona, Kennedy, and Miller congratulated the winners and the participants.

Manglona and Kennedy briefly discussed the importance of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the 1966 Miranda v. Arizona case, in which the court ruled that someone taken into police custody must be informed—prior to questioning—of their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

The 2016 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest with a theme "50 years after the Miranda decision" was sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the NMI and the Ninth Circuit Courts and community Committee.

The contest asked high school students to consider how Miranda rights came to be defined, how they are safeguarded by the federal courts, and why they are so important to the justice system.

The contest was open to sophomore, junior, and senior high school students in nine western states, the CNMI, and Guam.

The contest has two components—individual students expressing their thoughts and ideas in an essay and individual students or teams of up to three students submitting a 2-3 minute video presentation on the theme.

Circuit contest winners will be announced in June 2016.

Manglona said cash prizes will be awarded to Circuit winners for both contests. She said first place will receive $2,000 cash, second place will get $1,000, and third place will be given $500.

Manglona encouraged more students to participate at next year's Ninth Circuit Civics contest.

CLICK-IT OR TICKET
National Seat Belt Enforcement Mobilization
May 23 - June 05, 2016
CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT
In real life you don't get a second chance.
Car Seat Recommendations for Children
Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle and use it every time.
Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.
To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.
BIRTH 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
AGE (years)
Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.
REAR-FACING CAR SEAT
Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.
FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT
Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.
BOOSTER SEAT
Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.
SEATBELT
Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.
DESCRIPTION (RESTRAINT TYPE)
A REAR-FACING CAR SEAT is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.
A FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.
A BOOSTER SEAT positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.
A SEAT BELT should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.
Anchor. Tether. LATCH The next generation of child safety.
CNMI Department of Public Safety. For more information call:
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The Department of Public Safety is an equal opportunity provider and employer

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF TWO (2) UNITS SPECIALIZED VEHICLES FOR PORTS POLICE PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-004-16

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of two (2) units specialized vehicles for its Ports Police Department.

The bid package consisting of instructions and other considerations will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning May 10th, 2016.

Bids submission deadline is May 23rd, 2016 at 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME.

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Acting Executive Director

OAG, CNMI govt seek dismissal of ex-prosecutor's discrimination suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General and the CNMI government are asking the federal court to dismiss the discrimination lawsuit filed by former acting chief prosecutor Shelli Neal against them over her alleged demotion and subsequent termination from OAG in 2014.

OAG and the CNMI government, through assistant attorney general Christopher M. Timmons, asserted that Neal has sued a government body that cannot be sued and has failed to serve the Commonwealth with a summons or complaint.

In OAG's and the CNMI government's motion to dismiss filed on Thursday, Timmons said Neal has failed to timely exhaust her administrative remedies and failed to bring her claims before the U.S. District Court for the NMI within the statutory time limits.

Timmons said Neal's allegations do not rise to the level necessary to support her Title VII claims (employment discrimination).

Moreover, the AAG said, Neal has failed to plead prima facie claims under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA), or the Equal Pay Act of 1963 (EPA).

In her original complaint filed in December 2015, Neal alleged, among other things, that male prosecutors revealed confidential work product information to opposing lawyers regarding her cases in an effort to sabotage the cases and results.

Neal

Neal, who is an African-American lawyer, also disclosed that a then-chief prosecutor called her a "bitch" on multiple occasions and allowed white male employees to engage in discussions of a sexual nature in front of her and other female employees.

The incidents alleged in Neal's complaint did not happen during Attorney General Edward Manibusan's term.

In her original complaint, Neal is suing OAG for violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, subjecting her to hostile work environment, retaliation, violation of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, and violation of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

Neal amended her complaint to add the CNMI government as defendant.

The lawyer asked the court to hold OAG liable to pay her back pay with prejudgment interest in amounts to be determined at trial, and other relief necessary to eradicate the effects of the OAG's alleged unlawful employment practices.

Neal also demanded payment for compensation, punitive damages, and compensatory damages. She asked that she be reinstated to her previous position as chief prosecutor with the OAG.

In March 2010, the OAG recruited Neal for a position in the criminal division. She was hired for a one-year contract, handling domestic violence cases. At the time, she had approximately 15 years of experience practicing law in Tennessee and Texas.

In defendants' motion to dismiss, AAG Timmons said a federal court lacks personal jurisdiction over a defendant if service of process is insufficient.

Timmons said after the original complaint was filed and OAG was served with a summons and complaint, OAG brought a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted because OAG is not a government agency with capacity to be sued.

Timmons said in response, Neal filed the first amended complaint, adding the CNMI as an additional defendant.

Timmons said because the Commonwealth has not been served a summons and the first amended complaint, there has been insufficient service of process upon the government, and this court has no jurisdiction over it.

Timmons said OAG is not a government corporation or agency that can be sued.

Timmons said the law of the CNMI is clear: "A suit against the Commonwealth is the exclusive remedy for persons seeking money damages by reason of actions of employees of public entities acting within the scope of their employment."

Timmons said Title VII and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission regulations required Neal to file a charge of retaliatory discharge within 180 days of the alleged termination.

Neal alleges that she was terminated effective July 1, 2014, and that she was first made aware of this fact on Aug. 14, 2014.

Timmons said Neal's fist two EEOC claims pre-date the expiration of her contract and her last day of employment and therefore cannot form the basis for her discharge claim.

Timmons said the plaintiff has not alleged sufficiently severe or pervasive acts to create a discriminatorily hostile or abusive working environment.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Belated happy birthday to our Mom/Nana Pauline C. Roligat, who celebrated her special day last May 14. We love you from infinity and beyond! XOXOs, KaiLani Clan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 75th Birthday Grandma Rita. May you enjoy your golden days. We love you so much and we wish you all the blessings that God has given us. Love from your children, great grandchildren, and your great, great grandchildren.

UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 4th Quarter General Membership Meeting on May 18, 2016, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort, Caladium Hall.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. ROLL CALL
III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – March 9, 2016
V. REPORTS
  a. Chairman
  b. Executive Director
  c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
  d. State Plan Committee Chairperson
VI. ACTION ITEMS
  a. Review & Approve the Proposed FY 2017 – 2021 DD Basic State Plan Goals and Objectives
VII. OLD BUSINESS
  a. Transition Coalition
  b. Autism Awareness Month
  c. NMC-UCEDD Data Collection/Survey Monkey
VIII. NEW BUSINESS
  a. CNMI Western Pacific Islands Typhoon Readiness and Planning Workshop
  b. National Disability Employment Awareness Month
  c. Assistive Technology & Transition Conference
XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
XII. MISCELLANEOUS
XIII. NEXT MEETING
XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.
In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ John Demapan
Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

Philippine Airlines
The Heart of the Filipino
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Fly Saipan to Manila Non-stop!

FLIGHT SCHEDULE:

Route	Days	ETD	ETA
Saipan to Manila	Mon. & Thu.	4:35AM	6:45AM
Manila to Saipan	Wed. & Sun.	9:20PM	3:35AM+1

Saipan-Manila-Saipan

High Season	Low Season
June 16-June30	July 1-Dec. 10
Dec. 11-Dec. 31	Jan. 1-Mar. 15
March 16-May 30	

FARES:	High Season	Low Season	FARE RESTRICTION
A. Promo Fare:	$590 adult	$510 adult	Valid For 21 days only
	$470 child	$410 child	from dep. date
For Ticketing:	Until		Non Refundable
	May 31, 2016		$125 Change Fee
			$75.00 no show fee
B. Excursion Fare:	$740 adult	$640 adult	Valid For 45 days only from dep. date
	$583 child	$508 child	$175 refund if unused
			No refund if partially used
			$100 change fee/
			$75 no show fee

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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

CNMI WIC WOMEN • INFANTS • CHILDREN

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is now accepting Vendor Application for Tinian Vendors only.

Interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building #N-25 starting May 6, 2016 through May 20, 2016 (Monday to Friday) or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., May 20, 2016.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4066, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Esther L. Muna
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Erin Angela Camacho
WIC Program Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-16-IFB-012

Repair and Renovation of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Building N-2, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Repair and Renovation of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Building N-2, Navy Hill,** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **May 09, 2016** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **May 25, 2016 , 9:00 a.m. local time** at Project Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 27, 2016** to **Mr. George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-16-IFB-012"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, June 17, 2016.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, June 17, 2016**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 17, 2016** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **June 29, 2016.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, July 01, 2016.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on June 17, 2016.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Ninety (90) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

NMI visitor arrivals down 12.5 pct in April

Visitors arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands dropped 12.5 percent in April 2016 compared to April 2015. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 35,394 visitors in April 2016, compared to 40,473 visitors received in April 2015. Overall this fiscal year, visitor arrivals are 2.3 percent lower compared to the same period last fiscal year.

Arrivals from China increased 7.1 percent compared to April 2015 to 15,108 visitors, even as China's outbound tourism market enters the low season. The MVA's China office succeeded in hosting a major celebrity shoot, which generated $1.8 million in unpaid media exposure, as well as promoting the Saipan Marathon tour packages to boost the visibility of the NMI as a world-class sports destination. The MVA also collaborated with Dynasty Holiday to host several travel trade FAMs in April to allow key Chinese travel agents to experience the wide range of tourism resources on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and develop new tour packages to all three islands.

Arrivals from Korea dropped 21.9 percent in April to 13,564 visitors. Asiana Airlines decreased its double daily service to one daily in late March but is expected to return to double daily service for Incheon-Saipan in the summer high season. Furthermore, arrivals from Korea are expected to increase with the commencement of direct flights from Seoul on June 9, 2016, by Korean Air's low-cost carrier Jin Air.

Arrivals from Japan fell 29.3 percent to 4,269 visitors as the NMI continued to feel the effect of Delta Air Lines cutting its Narita to Saipan night flight in October, a move that dropped airlift from the Japan market to just one daily flight. Delta operated DL298 for 27 days, generating 4,563 seats. In addition to the Delta regular flight, Asiana Airlines operated three charter flights from Narita during April, generating 513 seats. In total, 5,076 seats were available, dramatically limiting arrivals from Japan. The MVA continues its negotiations with airlines in Japan to increase flight services from this major market and expects to be able to make a major announcement this summer regarding new service. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the public is advised that the Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board will hold its 2016 1st Regular Membership Meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2016 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Commonwelath Office of Transit Authority Conference Room located on the 2nd floor of the Northern Marianas Islands Settlement Fund Bldg. in Capital Hill, Saipan. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

Agenda

I. Call to Order
II. Welcome & Introduction of new Staff and Guests
A. Community Planner
B. Grants Management Coordinator
C. Administrative Officer/CPTAB Board Support Secretary
D. Operations Team
III. Roll call
IV. Adoption of Agenda
V. Correspondence
VI. Public Comment on Agenda Items
VII. New Business
A. Title VI Plan Update
B. Drug and Alcohol Policy
C. Saipan Fixed-Flex Core Route Map
D. Para-transit Rider Guide
E. Solicitation for the acquisition of rolling stock for the Saipan Fixed-flex Route Pilot Program
F. Solicitation for the installation and construction of 104 bus stops for the Saipan Fixed-Flex Route Pilot Program
G. Solicitation for COTA Office Space
H. Solicitation for A&E Design (Project Manager) for COTA's New Administration Bldg/Vehicle Maintenance Facility
VIII. Financial Status Report
A. FY 2012 Urbanized Formula Grant
B. FY 2013 Rural Urbanized Formula Grants
C. Veterans Transportation & Community Living Initiative (VTCLI) II Grant
i. One-Call/One-Click Transportation Service Center
ii. Transportation Marketing, Outreach and Planning
D. Program Income
E. FY2014 Rural Urbanized Formula Grant
F. FY2015 Rural Urbanized Formula Grant
G. DOI/OIA TAP Grant Funds
IX. Grant Status Report
A. FY 2016 Rural Formula Grant Full Apportionment amount
B. Applied for DOI/EIC (Empowering Insular Communities Grant Application Opportunity)
C. DOI/OIA TAP - Technical Assistance Program Grant Application Opportunity
D. TrAMS Financial Grants Reporting System
X. Executive Session: CPTAB may vote to go into executive session as provided under the CNMI Open Government Act
XI. Misc.
XII. Next Meeting date
XIII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require special accommodations are requested to call COTA within one(1) to two (2) business days at (670) 664-2690.

/s/ Sonya P. Dancoe, Chairperson

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda may be modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

This ad was paid for by funds from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Grant. U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

Ex-Army Reserve Jucutan, wife testify

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has placed under advisement Jordan M. Jucutan's motion to suppress his confession and all prior statements made in March 2015 when he was interrogated by agents from the U.S. Army Reserve Criminal Investigation Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

After a two-day hearing held last Wednesday and Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Senior Judge Alex R. Munson, who presided over the proceedings via telephone, said he would like to review the exhibits and all the evidence received before issuing his written decision.

Munson advised the parties to continue to prepare for the jury trial set for tomorrow, Tuesday, as if the motion will be denied and not that they will be denied.

Jucutan, a teacher and a former member of the U.S. Army Reserve, stated that agents from the Army Reserve CID and the FBI, interrogated him and subjected him to polygraph test without advising him of his constitutional rights.

Jucutan testified at his motion hearing on Thursday.

Jucutan is facing charges in federal court for allegedly stealing referral bonuses from the U.S. Army Reserve totaling $9,000 by fraudulently claiming that he recruited some potential soldiers and claiming the cash incentives for himself.

A second superseding indictment charged Jucutan with four counts of wire fraud and four counts of aggravated identity theft. He pleaded not guilty.

At the hearing for defendant's motion to suppress, assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorfing, counsel for the U.S. government, called to the witness stand FBI special agent Joe Stranz, Army CID special agent Josh Kimrey, and Army CID polygraph examiner Elizabeth Smith.

Defense counsel Pamela Brown Blackburn called to the witness stand Jucutan and his wife, Danica.

In his declaration filed in court, Jucutan said every time he attempted to explain to a certain special agent and polygraph test administrator Smith that he hadn't stolen anyone's personal identification information, she would yell at him and say, "answer the question!"

"At this point, I was so panicked, confused, and agitated that I think I would have answered yes to anything even to being at the assassination of President Kennedy even though I wasn't even born then," he said.

Blackburn attached the declaration in support of defendant's motion to suppress confession and all prior statements made in March 2015.

Blackburn asked the court to suppress Jucutan's statement to Army Reserve CID investigators on March 31, 2015, as well as all prior statements made during CIB and FBI interrogation at the FBI office on Saipan on March 5, 2015, due to violation of defendant's U.S. and NMI constitutional rights as guaranteed under the Fifth Amendment and Sixth Amendment.

Blackburn asserted that the court should grant the motion to suppress Jucutan's confession as involuntary under both U.S. Supreme Court and U.S. Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit case law interpreting the U.S. Constitution, Fifth Amendment protections against self-incrimination.

The U.S. government opposed the motion.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council
P.O. Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: (670) 322-6537 • Fax: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2016 Second General Membership Meeting on Thursday, May19, 2016 at the Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club from 8:00 am – 11:00 a.m. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. **Call to Order**
II. **Roll Call**
III. **Review and Adoption of Agenda of May 19, 2016**
IV. **Review and Adoption of Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2016**
V. **Reports**
  a. SRC Chairperson
  b. QA/QI Committee Chairperson
  c. Employment/Marketing Committee Chairperson
  d. Transition/Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
  e. Transportation/Housing/Advocacy Committee Chairperson
  f. OVR Director
VI. **Old Business**
  a. Update: Developmental Disabilities and Employment Awareness Month
  b. Update: Autism Awareness Month
  c. Update: State Plan for Independent Living 2017-2019
VII. **New Business**
  a. Request for Proposal for Independent Living Services
VIII. **Consumer Forum**
IX. **Miscellaneous/Announcement**
  a. Next Meeting: July 2016
X. **Adjournment**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter, are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) three days before the meeting.

/s/ PAMELA C. SABLAN
Chairperson

This advertisement is paid for with Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-012

Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials

ADDENDUM NO. 1

Dated: May 2, 2016

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is hereby notifying all prospective bidders of the following amendment to CUC-IFB-16-012:

- **Bid Submittal Deadline:**

The bid submittal deadline has been extended from 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 19, 2016 to 1:30 PM (ChST) on May 26, 2016.

One (1) Original Hard Copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-16-012, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 1:30 p.m. (ChST) on May 26, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.** *A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address cucprocurement@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with the copy of the submission.*

All other terms and conditions in the Scope of Work, shall remain unchanged and in full force.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-012

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$80.00** for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) Original Hard Copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-16-012, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 19, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address cucprocurement@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with the copy of the submission.*

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Joseph Crisostimo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email joseph.crisostimo@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

/s/ MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

A white nationalist for Trump

In its latest stranger-than-fiction move, Donald Trump's presidential campaign selected a self-described white separatist to be one of his California delegates at the Republican National Convention.

William Johnson, who has written a book calling for African-Americans and other nonwhites to lose their U.S. citizenship and be deported, is on the official list of 169 delegates submitted by the Trump campaign to the secretary of State's office.

In an ordinary campaign year, this might be shocking news. This year, less so. The response from Trump campaign officials when Mother Jones magazine called them out on it was essentially: "Oops." Trump's California campaign director put out a statement saying that Johnson was included in the delegate list by mistake.

But, really, this is a pretty significant goof-up considering that Johnson makes no secret about being chairman of the American Freedom Party, which seeks to "represent the political interests of White Americans." Johnson conducted robocalls with a white nationalist message in support of Trump during the primaries. Trump was even questioned on the trail about accepting contributions from white supremacists, and he said he would return them. Johnson's $250 donation was sent back.

Even if it was an honest mistake, "oops" is an insufficient response from a candidate who has screwed up this badly — especially one who has already been accused of racism and xenophobia for his comments about Mexicans and Muslims, and whose campaign has flirted with white nationalists in the past. Trump's son appeared on a white nationalist radio show. Trump himself has retweeted comments from white nationalists. Each time, the explanation is: oops. Trump was also slow to disavow an endorsement from KKK leader David Duke.

Candidates shouldn't have to disavow every unpalatable person who supports them. But in this case, it was Trump's own campaign that selected Johnson, and as a result, the candidate owes voters a clear explanation. Will Trump state clearly and unequivocally that he does not want the support of white supremacists; that he rejects their ideology and sees no place for hate, racism or ethnic division in the United States? Or won't he? California Republicans ought to watch and listen closely, and ask themselves: Is this the man to lead the GOP?

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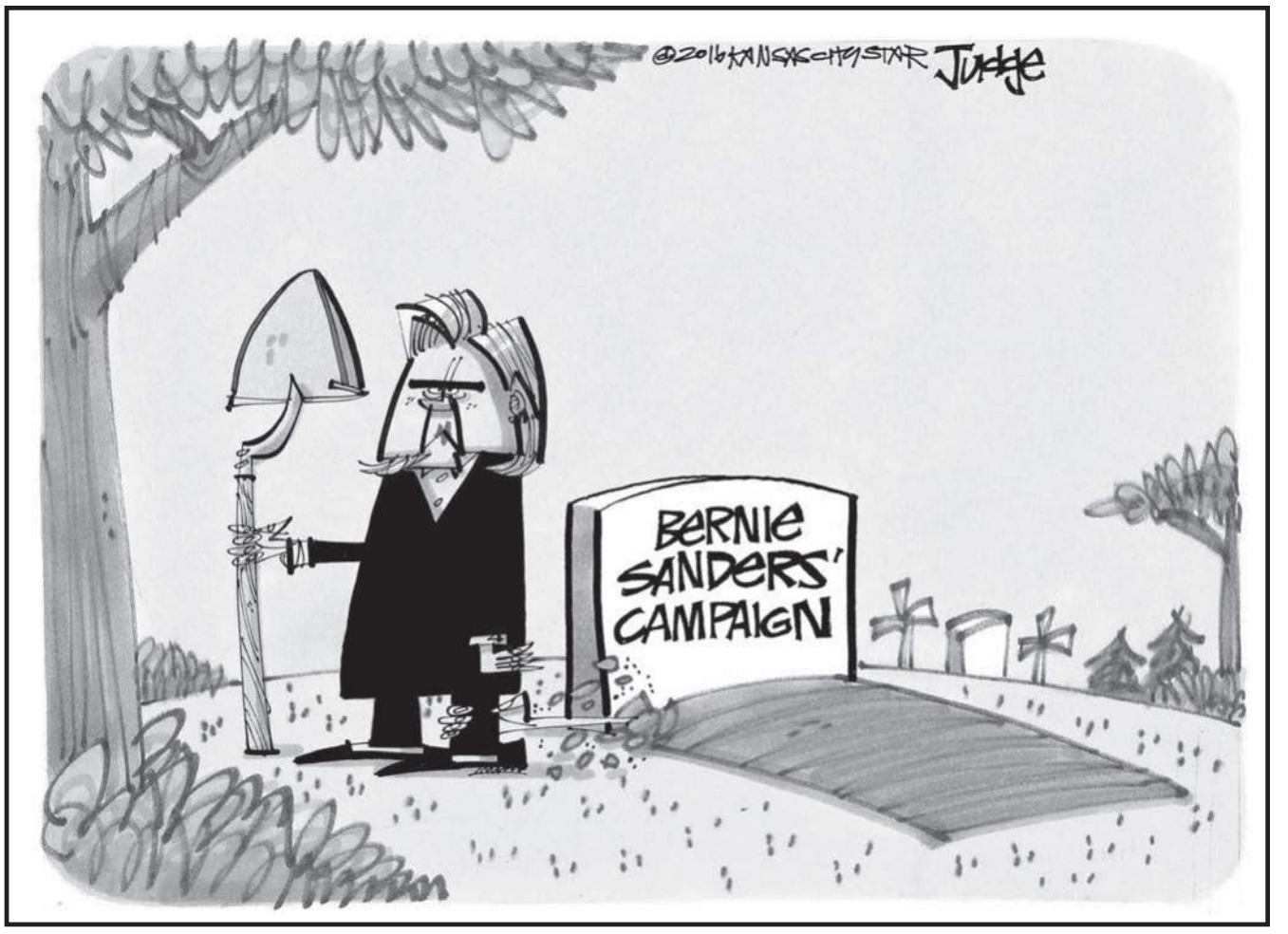


The Educator

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

One of the teachers at my school, when meeting her for the first time, called me an "educator," a term used in the *Marianas Variety* to identify my occasional foray to public education. Being committed to the Public School System in the next five years makes me a qualitative additive to the team of teachers at whatever level I am assigned.

First, the professional identification. I am presently contracted to be a grade 1 teacher at WSR where an obviously dedicated teacher moved out mid-year not too long ago for one reason or another, and a young graduate tried her hand and found the demand a bit too much for her to handle and decided to cut her term short. PSS curriculum standards could be daunting as the requirements for Core components are the basis for grading.

That left 23 students dispersed to four other classes already carrying the average limit of PSS students. Not a happy situation but the four teachers already on the ground soldiered on without question though with the hope that someone would come along.

Came WSR Phyllis Ain's phone call when she found out of my availability. I had alerted PSS to keep me on their current teaching lists, was interviewed by a middle school but never got a call back. This time, three schools had me for an interview.

I walked in after recently teaching three years of university oral English in China, taught at PSS from 2003-2008, and before that, worked on basic community level education from 1972-1986 in various locations around the world, primarily Southeast Asia, the Pacific and Latin America—the Caribbean through the Ecumenical Institute (EI) and the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA).

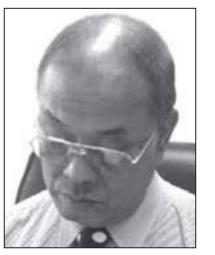
A peripatetic pedagogue, I came to Micronesia with a stint in the Marshalls (we wore blue and while the "blue shirts" were respected in India and Africa, we were thought to be haughty in Majuro to the remnants of the old Trust Territory), then the Mari-

See EDUCATOR on Next Page

Jaime R. Vergara's grade 1 class at William S. Reyes Elementary School.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Lawsuit isn't about me!



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

It is hard for citizens to take the local government to court whenever there's fundamental violation of law. Understood why people shy from it. Most folks aren't conversant what the issues entail plus it cost a lot of money to litigate it. Not interested in the notoriety or ignominy spinning out of the lawsuit.

But it's time to stamp out the insidious tentacles of corruption! Must protect the wellbeing and dignity of the innocent from kleptocrats.

The authority to appropriate funds is vested solely in the legislature per the constitution. No such authority is granted legislative delegations!

Appalling how Victor Hokog and Ralph Torres exploited illegal path to amass public funds that benefited the Hokog business interest. Biktot was the evil chief architect of the resolution rumored to be assisted by Raffy who drafted amendments as the resolution moved through stages. Raffy was then the lt. governor. Ever heard of the separation of powers, Raffy?

Does Biktot Hokog know the constitutional prohibition voting on measures that would subsequently benefit him or his clan? Ignorance of constitutional laws isn't an excuse, people!

So both are full participants in the siphoning of public funds illegally. Goes to show that both must have flunked their civics courses ignorant that the power of the purse rests with the legislative branch. It's basic stuff! How could they have missed it? Was the $400,000 for a public purpose? Isn't this a must provision in the appropriation process?

Now the partners in crime (Raffy and Biktot) have seen fit to spin the issue away from the obvious constitutional infraction focusing on the benefits of the MV *Luta*. Question: Is the service factually of benefit to ALL three inhabited islands?

Simple economics: It's known in economics as the law of "supply and demand." Take a look at the evacuation of a lot of our people on Rota to Guam and elsewhere given poor economic conditions. This evacuation (relocation) meant far less people to buy basic commodities in grocery stores at home.

That consumer items hardly move (because there are less people buying) it also slows down shipping operations. Thus it automatically triggers an increase in shipping charges so the company could rake-in some profit. In doing so, this cost is passed right back to consumers. It means the coming of the MV *Luta* to Rota is useless because it has been sitting at the dock for three months since its arrival.

It must secure two issues: tariff charges approval and U.S. Coast Guard certification. Thus, the MV *Luta* can't bring in third party cargo under its own name.

Hokog said that he has "no interest" in the $400K that went to his family business. Truth is, sir: Why then did you serve as the chief architect and evil genius of the funds in question? Did you even recuse yourself from its disposition? Why would you lie in perpetuity? Are you sure you haven't received money from the Mermaid as family? Sorry, we could easily discern the truth from the apparent, sir!

Interesting the disbursement of the funds by the secretary of finance, the custodian of public funds, released without legal appropriation. Remember the action of a former secretary of Finance who refused to follow orders and subsequently resigned rather than commit constitutional violation on funds that were never appropriated by the Legislature? Why was the money released without an appropriation or a guiding contract on method of repayment? Isn't it public funds, Ms. Secretary?

Deaf, mute, and blind: It piqued my curiosity why the sublimely, if not, ridiculously quiet lawmakers from Saipan hiding behind the shadows of lamed courage. Is your ugly silence a confirmation that you failed your civics courses in high school therefore the obvious ignorance? Do you have percipiency what entails a republican form of government?

I'm not talking toxic local republican charge. It's a governmental concept, people! Evidently, didn't you take the oath of office to uphold the laws of the land?

Meanwhile, CUC's decision to charge consumers some $5 million in energy loss merits a legislative oversight. Please ask them to cite authority that grants them forcing customers arbitrary fees coming from, yes, and CUC's management incompetency!

Perhaps this explains why even the flame trees refuse to blossom this year. If it's caused by old age, fine. But if it is triggered by the stench of corruption, understood, too!

Halo? Received an anonymous call last Friday at around 11:20am of a big fire truck allegedly delivering water at convicted former governor Benigno Fitial's residence. The red huge truck left around 11:40am. What's newsy about it?

The fire truck is government equipment. Its use skips the services of privately owned water buffaloes. Would this service be available for the poor or those without political connections? It confirms that the service is limited to the "peerless corrupt" bunch of former and current officials. Who are you serving anyway in the elitist, arrogant, and corrupt ill disposition of government equipment?

The taxpayers deserve an answer on this issue, e.g., who permitted water delivery using a government fire truck. I want name, rank, serial number, and authority to abuse government property and an explanation if the "new" service would be available to others who may need water in remote or farm areas.

Corruption is in full bloom, friends. Must be a hybrid seed that thrives during the drought season. But then this lifestyle is limited to the peerless privileged few. The public auditor must descend, probe, and cause for the prosecution of this abuse! Is anarchy the latest fad among the political elite? Please, don't play with civil frustration and discontentment for you're toying with a lethal explosive.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Man'amko takeover

Each *Man'amko* Takeover day is such a memorable page in my life. I've taken over a government position for so many years. I remember each day of my being in this or that position burdened with duties and responsibilities for a short time though. Feeling a huge burden of responsibility combined with a wide range of discretions is very exciting and leads me into deep reflection.

This time, the Aging Center promoted me to take over the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs administrator position. This time I was allowed to go into the Child Care and Development Fund Program. I was to hold it in my hands, see its details, and the scale of CNMI-wide childcare.

At 9 o' clock in the morning of May 10, representatives from different government agencies arrived at the Aging Center to pick up *man'amko* "takeoverers" to drive them to their assigned offices and perform their assigned duties. As I talked with them about their impressions of taking over this or that position, I came to realize that they really appreciated taking over because they learned something new and positive about life and our current government.

They liked how well they were treated as elderly, as a new officer on duty, as a new colleauge. After lunch with permanent officers, getting to establishe contacts with them for future actions, they were brought back to the Aging Center all excited, full of joy and happiness. They would show each other their certificates of appreciation for their accomplishment at the workplace. They would proudly pose for a picture with their certificate as recognition of their service to the community.

Man'amko understand that taking over is just a short time, but still they see behind this a deep respect of their previous life, their years and years of long labor for our beautiful islands.

A little more about my being a Child Care officer under the command of Mrs. Loste, the administrator of the program. Our society cares about children! A child is not yet born or newly born but a system is already caring about his present and future. Already, money and specialists are at work to give the child a healthy body and soul and ready for follow-up services. Taking into account our prosperity and strong enough following rules and regulations, actually a child's life is assuerd to have quality, enjoyment, and full of meaning.

It is in contrast from many countries having a baby is hardly a bearable burden and high a risk. In some places like China, having many babies is not allowed, even punished for that! Officials persecute those who stand for child rights in some other countries like India, some children are outcasts! They are untouchable!

In countries like Philippines, some children are born on the streets, they grow up on the streets. He/she lives his/her whole life on the streets, they marry/divorce on the streets of Manila and he/she dies after a lifelong street life still not having his/her own home! The only hope is that the newly elected Philippines leadership will act more mercifully toward children.

There should be a wise and effective enough system of protecting a child's rights. For example, if a father or mother runs away from caring of their child, the government first gives all the spectrum of needed money and other support to the caregiver parent and finds the parent and deals with him/her with all the harshness of law.

My dear people, let us keep in mind our children's wellbeing first! Let us take care of them well so they could care for us well later on.

Teddy Guiao
Navy Hill

EDUCATOR

From Page 10

anas through the local church program of the United Methodist Church of Guam ('82-'83) and Saipan ('98-'03), and finding the ambience of both still much towards looking up to the heavens for profundity of finitude, I was an oddity having shifted my context to the '68 earthrise image of the '70s.

It is this experience of getting folks to be self-conscious on the way they learn that provided the challenge of 40-some-classdays sessions with grade 1 students, not so much in implementing the standard core curriculum that PSS follows, and lately, through the Sheltered Instructions Operational Protocol (SIOP) method that the district adopted, but on the sole task of teaching them to learn how to learn, to use their brains so that students at the portal of a 16-year journey to a college education, participate in their own learning, if they so choose.

Of course, we keep an eye on the requirements of the Curriculum Office at Central PSS, which pretty much leave teams at the elementary School to determine their course mapped through the Core components. Staying in and with the team is thereby the professional responsibility of any teacher to be in the service. No Lone Rangers here; team players only.

My vice principal commented on a rough supplementary design I prepared, thinking the material was more for a year's curriculum than the 40 days interim measure. She was right. I overestimated the absorptive capacity and learning capability of my students.

Learning later that only two of them came directly to grade 1 and most coursed through some kindergarten program elsewhere, I assumed facility in words and numbers. The surprise came when four had difficulties writing their numbers and letters, and, at most, four were capable enough to read, i.e., verbalize into recognizable sounds alphabetical notations, so Grade One was truly grade one.

We rolled our sleeves, physically and mentally. I told WSR that at 70, endurance might be the only contradiction as energy wanes after midday. We've already narrated our bout with various viruses. We are back to wearing towel in the classroom, to keep the cough down but that was the least of the challenge. PSS has a procurement process that is time consuming and quite bureaucratically involved so we decided to take matters into our own hands. There were not enough trapezoidal tables normally used and maintenance was only able to offer rejects that were falling apart.

A colleague thought I had gone bonkers. I took the plastic to Costco and charge more than my first paycheck's worth from PSS. Not too smart but 13 tables allowed all 24 of us (teacher included), and a centerpiece (my earthrise are local shells), to have a seat in a manageable classroom.

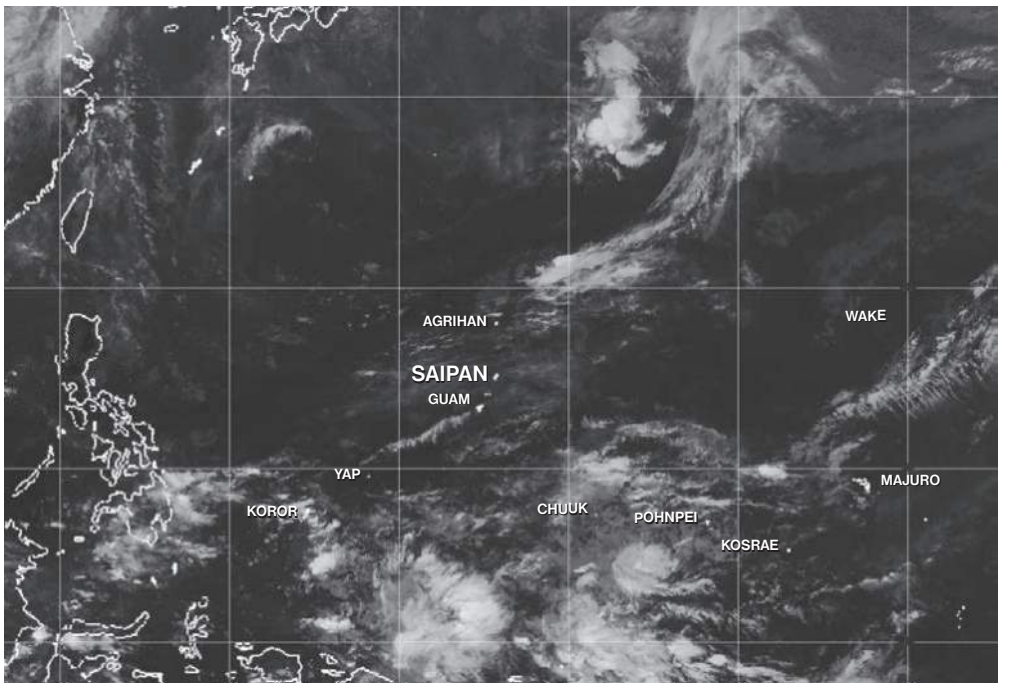
Educator? Why not. Elementary education, anyone?

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 12:53 PM, SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough along with upper level divergence is generating isolated thunderstorms between 20N and 22N from 148E to 154E. Trade-wind convergence along with upper level divergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Palau within 90 miles of a line from 9N130E to 7N134E to 4N136E. Scattered showers are present south to east of Yap within 70 miles of a line from 8N139E to 6N136E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are also found well south of Yap south of a line from 2N135E to 5N142E to 3N146E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in patchy areas over Chuuk and Pohnpei states south of a line from 11N149E to 8N59E. Thunderstorms are found within 20 miles of 10N161E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲91	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼54
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼58
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲81	▼75
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼73
London	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼47
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼57
Manila	Thundershowers	▲92	▼78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼52
Miami	Sunny	▲86	▼77
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼52
Osaka	Showers	▲73	▼58
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼43
Pusan	Sunny	▲75	▼54
Rome	Showers	▲72	▼55
Salem	Showers	▲68	▼46
San Francisco	Sunny	▲68	▼55
Seoul	Sunny	▲78	▼51
Tokyo	Rain	▲71	▼60
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲68	▼53

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:06 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:46 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
05:16 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
11:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Tuesday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:13 PM	2:00 AM
Tuesday	3:00 PM	2:38 AM
Wednesday	3:47 PM	3:16 AM
Thursday	4:34 PM	3:54 AM
Friday	5:21 PM	4:34 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	10:35pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2921/191	1:30pm	8:55am+1	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2920/191	2:20pm	8:55am+1	2, 6 via GUM
UA2928/191	6:05pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2920	9:45pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	9:45pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2929	9:45pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:30pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:30pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	9:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	9:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	9:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

AS PART OF TFC'S 'TOURISTAS GLOBAL TRIP'

Kim Chiu, Xian Lim due on Saipan this May 29

In the tradition of bringing its well-loved content closer to every overseas Filipino viewer, The Filipino Channel makes history anew as it kicks off the "Touristas Global Trip" series with the Saipan leg of the widely followed teleserye "The Story Of Us" featuring Kim Chiu and Xian Lim, happening on May 29 at the Royal Taga Convention Center World Resort Saipan.

ABS-CBN Asia Pacific managing director Ailene Averion says that "The Story Of Us" Saipan is the first of a series of TFC events dubbed "Touristas Global Trip" which will share the entertainment value of ABS-CBN's most watched shows across the world. "Bringing 'The Story Of Us' first to Saipan marks another first in our efforts to bring a total content experience to new markets. We continue to expand our audience in new areas as we hear the needs of our Kapamilyas for world-class Filipino entertainment, guaranteed by a brand that is TFC," Aversion says. Averion adds, "Kim and Xian, two of this generation's brightest stars will deliver an unforgettable experience that will make our Kapamilyas feel that we always try to deliver to them a piece of home."

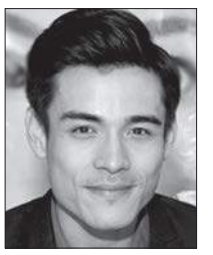
Labeled as one of the hottest and most enduring Filipino love teams of their time, Kim and Xian dubbed KimXi, will get closer to their fans as they bring the thrill of their tandem to Saipan shores as they share the songs from the teleserye including "Kailangan Kita," performed for the teleserye by Angeline Quinto.

Kim, also called the "Chinita Princess," is not only an award-winning actress but also a top-selling performer as well. Kim first came into the entertainment scene via her win at the first Pinoy Big Brother (PBB) Edition as the Grand Winner. Since then, she has consistently made a name for herself from television, movies, even at the music industry. During the "Story of Us" concert on Saipan, she will share her own hits such as "Mr. Right."

Xian, a multi-talented artist himself, will perform solo of international covers, his own hits such as "Bakit Hindi Ka Crush ng Crush Mo," and duets with Kim.

The loveteam will first put together by the network in the teleserye "Binondo Girl," which was one of ABS-CBN's most widely followed and much-talked about series. After proving their mettle as a team, they have since scored top-rating series and blockbuster movies.

Chiu


Lim

"The Story of Us" is their comeback series after 2012's top-rating teleserye "Ina, Kapatid, Anak." Now, the reunion drama is set to create another milestone for both TFC and the love team.

"The Story Of Us Saipan," will create history also as the first major event in Saipan after a long time, on May 29, 2016 from 7pm to 10:30pm at the Royal Taga Convention Center, World Resort Saipan.

The event is made possible by Philippine Airlines, which also announces the launch of their flights to Saipan on June 15, 2016.

Ticket prices are at $40 (with group photo op with the artist) and $20. For more information, visit facebook.com/TFCGuamAndSaipan. ***(PR)***

UOG extends Underwood's contract for 2 years

The University of Guam Board of Regents has unanimously voted to extend UOG president Dr. Robert Underwood's contract for two more years at a board meeting on Thursday, May 12. Underwood has served as president for the past eight years, making his tenure the longest consecutive presidency in the University's history.

Underwood

Underwood became president in 2008. Under his leadership, the university has seen a significant growth in enrollment and graduation rates; reached record highs in revenues; expanded its portfolio of federal grants and contracts, developed and implemented its Good to Great initiative to prioritize its programs, held tuition rates flat for six years, established the Center for Island Sustainability and the Research Corporation of UOG; and maintained national accreditation for its academic programs—among other accomplishments.

"I am honored by the board's confidence in my leadership, and I am grateful for the support of the University of Guam community including the students, faculty and staff," said Underwood. "I look forward to finalizing the G2G initiatives and providing more opportunities for future generations." ***(PR)***

Heineken Reggae on the Beach Saipan to feature top Hawaiian acts

Heineken Reggae on the Beach Saipan is set for Saturday, May 27, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa.

Legendary Island Reggae artist Fiji will be the headliner for Heineken Reggae on the Beach Saipan; along with Kolohe Kai, Micah G., and Mana'o Company sharing the stage.

The artist behind classics like "Morning Ride," "Reggae Train," and "Sweet Darling," Fiji's success has spanned decades. In that time, he has taken his hit music on tours throughout the Pacific and United States. Kolohe Kai, who shot to fame with hits like "Cool Down" and "Ehu Girl," mega hit "Apple of My Eye," by Micah G, and Mana'o Company of "Sweet Reggae Woman" fame will all be ready to play their favorites.

Heineken Reggae on the Beach Saipan will take place at Fiesta Resort and Spa beachside. Doors open at 5pm and show begins at 7:30pm. VIP tickets are $70 and general admission tickets are $40. Tickets are available at Pacific Trading Corp. office or online at www.tpiguam.com.

Heineken Reggae on the Beach Saipan is brought to you by Monster Energy, Docomo Pacific, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Best Sunshine Live, Hertz Rentals, Jack Daniels, Patron Tequila, and Skyy Vodka. Heineken reminds everyone to enjoy responsibly. This is a tropical production. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-ITB-16-013

SALE AND REMOVAL OF SCRAP MATERIALS FROM THE WAREHOUSE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC Scrap materials located in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained at no charge upon registration at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and One (1) copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-ITB-16-013, CUC Sale & Removal of Scrap Materials from the Warehouse"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 26, 2016, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the scrap materials. CUC shall transfer and assign the scrap materials to the prospective bidder in an **"As is, Where is"** condition. By accepting the transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the scrap materials.

The scrap materials may be inspected by appointment only, between the hours of 9:00 AM thru 3:00 PM Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, by contacting CUC Warehouse Division at telephone no. 322-6585.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2016, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Technician for Procurement via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

/s/ GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

/s/ MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-014

AS LITO WATER DISTRIBUTION UPGRADE AND REPLACEMENT/RELOCATION OF SERVICE LATERALS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of As Lito Water Distribution Upgrade and Replacement/Relocation of Service Laterals in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of new distribution lines, cut and cap of existing lines and tapping to existing mains. The work also includes the installation of new fire hydrants, flush hydrants, air relief valves, new water lateral connections, relocation and reconnection of existing water meters and asphalt pavement restoration, etc. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **May 19, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "*CUC-IFB-16-014, As Lito Water Distribution Upgrade and Replacement/Relocation of Service Laterals"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 9, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 23, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Support Assistant – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

/s/ MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

DOI gives $1M in Coral Reef Initiative grants to insular areas

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina announced $1,094,205 in grant assistance to address the impacts of climate change and other threats to coral reefs in the U.S. territories and freely associated states. The grants are part of the Coral Reef Initiative Program in the Office of Insular Affairs.

"I am pleased to support these coral reef projects that focus on understanding and reducing the effects of climate change on coral reef ecosystems," said Kia'aina. "These grants are especially timely as we witness the devastating effects on our coral reefs from this year's record-breaking warm ocean temperatures. These funds will help insular area governments and communities take measures to increase the resilience of these critical resources in the face of the significant threats posed by climate change."

Coral Reef Initiative grants awarded this week are as follows:

■ **Micronesia Conservation Trust (Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia)** - $130,000 to support development of a robust model for sea-level rise projections as part of a mangrove vulnerability assessment on Pohnpei. Healthy fringing mangrove forests provide timber, fuelwood, nursery and fish habitats, as well as filter coastal waters and protect coastal areas from rising seas and erosion. Results from this work will have application across the Pacific. Funds will also support the highly successful Micronesia Challenge Young Champions initiative that will provide five interns with one-year internships at natural resource management and non-governmental agencies across Micronesia. The interns will work to share lessons learned, promote efficiency of conservation efforts, and conduct outreach and information-sharing locally, regionally, internationally, and online.

Kia'aina

■ **Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, CNMI)** - $73,040 to conduct summer youth environmental stewardship programs on Tinian and Rota and provide regional coordination and capacity building opportunities for CNMI's coral reef managers. Funds will also be used to assess the resilience of seagrass ecosystems on Saipan and to incorporate three-dimensional modeling of reef structural changes into CNMI's long-term coral reef monitoring program.

■ **The Nature Conservancy (Seattle, Washington)** - $31,490 to The Nature Conservancy's Reef Resilience Project to support development of a new online tool to help coral reef managers "climate proof" their coral reef projects and programs. The Corals & Climate Adaptation Planning Design Tool will instruct users on the science of coral acclimation and potential adaptation and how the tool can be used to support climate-smart planning and management. Reef managers in the U.S. Insular Areas and around the world will be able to use the tool.

■ **Coral Reef Advisory Group (American Samoa)** - $123,710 to incorporate climate change adaptation principles into efforts to reduce land-based sources of pollution using the Corals & Climate Adaptation Planning Design Tool being developed jointly by The Nature Conservancy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Office of Insular Affairs. Funds will also support collaboration between scientists and managers in the islands to increase the extent to which resilience and vulnerability are included in management planning, and to raise awareness among reef stakeholders for resilience-based management to reduce vulnerability to climate change.

■ **Bureau of Statistics and Planning (Guam)** - $105,600 to raise awareness of island residents about the importance of Guam's coral reef resources to tourism, recreation, fisheries, and protection. Funds will be used to help educational outreach to primary, secondary, and post-secondary students on the effects of climate change and how to minimize negative impacts on coral reefs. Funding also will be used to work with local villages in the Manell-Geus watershed to reduce sediment runoff onto adjacent coral reefs by promoting habitat restoration through fire hazard reduction and eradication of invasive species such as bamboo. The grant also funds opportunities to coordinate with others in the region and nationally on issues related to protection and management of coral reefs.

■ **Department of Planning and Natural Resources (U.S. Virgin Islands)** - $131,000 to enhance the effectiveness of local coral reef planning efforts; to create "stewards of the reef" through targeted marine experience and education of local high school students; and to integrate "ocean acidification sentinel" sites into the islands' territorial coral reef monitoring program.

■ **College of the Marshall Islands (Republic of the Marshall Islands)** - $124,963 to develop technical guidelines for assessing the state of the coastline and historic shoreline position and identifying erosion prone areas in support of coastal protection efforts by the Marshall Islands Environmental Protection Agency and Public Works Department. While initial efforts target Majuro, long-term benefits will extend to Ebeye and the outer islands. This project will utilize the GIS database and remote sensing capabilities for conservation and protection of coral reefs in the Marshall Islands that were developed, in part, with previous Office of Insular Affairs funding.

■ **International Society for Reef Studies (Hawaii)** - $40,000 to support the Leaders' Summit that will be convened as part of the 13th International Coral Reef Symposium in June 2016 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Summit will bring regional leaders together with scientists and government representatives to address the need for improving the science-to-policy bridge.

■ **The Nature Conservancy (Santa Cruz, California)** - $89,821 to support a project demonstrating the role coral reefs play as effective first-line defenses in protecting coastlines from flooding. The project will identify when, where and how coral reefs provide the most significant flood reduction benefits both socially and economically under current and future climate change scenarios in American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Coral reefs provide a natural protective defense that is often not as rigorously evaluated as seawalls and other "grey infrastructure" which may not be cost effective and can have negative impacts on coastal ecosystems.

■ **Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)** - $66,481 to support the successful Tasi-Watch Program which has been training recent high school graduates to become community conservation rangers since 2010. The word tasi in Chamorro means ocean.

■ **Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography; Nova Southeastern University (Florida)** - $200,000 to support Year 2 of the National Coral Reef Management Assistantship Program for the U.S. territories. The program helps fill current capacity gaps as well as build longer-term capacity by placing qualified young professionals in jurisdictions where their education and work experience meet specific needs. ***(PR)***

PACIFICA INSURANCE CO-SPONSOR OF GTC CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters served as co-sponsor of the Governor's Tourism Cup Golf Tournament held last May 14, 2016. Photo shows Pacifica Insurance assistant underwriter Jeffrian Me Omar presenting a $5,000 (Hole-in-one prize) check to Vicky Benavente, chair of the Marianas Tourism Education Council. Also in the photo are James Nelson, far left, MVA vice chair and tournament director; Pacifica Insurance's Dana Marie Manglona, and a student intern.

Air Force to conduct training at W-517, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

■ May 16, 18 and 20 from 12:30 to 4pm

■ May 17 and 19 from 11am to 4pm

Training will also be conducted at the island of Farallon de Medinilla May 17 and 19 from 11am to 4pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. W-517 is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 10"N/144° 30"E, 13° 10"N/144° 42"E, 12° 50"N/144° 45"E, 11° 00"N/144°45"E, 11°00"N/143° 00"E, 11° 45"N/143° 00"E, 12° 50"N/144° 30"E.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055. ***(PR)***

Pacific Community governing body to convene in New Caledonia

NOUMEA, New Caledonia—Representatives of the 26 countries and territories that govern the Pacific Community (SPC) will meet in Noumea, New Caledonia, from June 28 to 30 for the 46th meeting of the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations.

This is the first time that the CRGA will convene mid-year and the new schedule follows an endorsement by members at the Pacific Community Conference in Alofi, Niue, in November 2015.

Significant items on the agenda will be a report on SPC's scientific and technical results for 2015, the organization's new sustainable financing model, an update of the Pacific Youth Development Framework and the Council of Regional Organisations in Pacific (CROP) cohesion and enhanced engagement in the framework for Pacific Regionalism.

"SPC has proudly served the Pacific for close to seven decades and this is a very important year for the SPC family as we implement our new strategic plan which will guide our activities over the next five years.

"We look forward to this new chapter of collaboration with our members and many development partners, in pursuit of effective and sustainable Pacific development, and the upcoming CRGA46 plays a crucial role in this process," the Pacific Community director general Dr. Colin Tukuitonga, said.

Immediately preceding the meeting, member representatives will undergo a one-day seminar on governance.

The CRGA will be "paper smart," consistent with SPC's environmental policy. ***(PR)***

Business

US set to renew, but tweak, sanctions against Myanmar

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. business lobby says it is high time to drop the remaining U.S. sanctions on Myanmar, but human rights activists and U.S. lawmakers say not so fast.

Former political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi is now running the government after winning elections. Still, the military continues to wield considerable power.

That poses a dilemma for President Barack Obama, who wants to encourage investment but not lose leverage to encourage further reforms. So next week, Obama is expected to renew sanctions for another year. The administration could take some state-run companies off a U.S. Treasury blacklist.

Secretary of State John Kerry will be traveling to Myanmar on May 22 to signal support for the civilian-led government that took power last month and for further democratic and economic reforms, the State Department said Friday.

The U.S. waived its long-standing bans on investment and trade in 2012 after the country also known as Burma began shifting from a half-century of repressive military rule. The U.S. still forbids business dealings with companies majority-owned by the military and dozens of companies and individuals designated by Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control. The U.S. also bans arms trading and imports of rubies and jade, one of Myanmar's most lucrative industries.

The authority under which sanctions are imposed is the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, which empowers the president to regulate commerce with another country in response to "an unusual and extraordinary threat" to the United States. Some 20 countries are subject to such a declared emergency.

"Does an emergency still exist as it did in Burma five or 10 years ago?" said John Goyer, senior director for Southeast Asia for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which is pushing lifting of Myanmar-specific sanctions that it says create uncertainty for investors. He said that where necessary, the U.S. could blacklist companies and individuals under different sanctions programs.

AP

In this Nov. 14, 2014 file photo, Aung San Suu Kyi, walks with President Barack Obama for their joint news conference at her home in Yangon, Myanmar.

Although several major U.S. firms like Coca-Cola, General Electric, Chevron and Caterpillar are now operating in Myanmar, U.S. investment of $248 million represents less than 1 percent of total foreign investment there, a much lower proportion than in other Southeast Asian countries, Goyer said.

Human rights activists see matters through a different prism. They cite continuing repression of 140,000 stateless Rohingya Muslims confined to squalid internment camps, and abuses by Myanmar's army in long-running hostilities against ethnic armies.

"The current sanctions regime is deliberately limited and creates incentives for human rights abusers to clean up their act," said Matthew Smith, executive director of the group Fortify Rights. "These measures are sensible and should remain in place. Known human rights abusers shouldn't profit from improved bilateral relations."

U.S. lawmakers of both parties have also urged Obama to renew the sanctions authority that expires on May 20.

In a letter to the president this week, seven House members said that despite the electoral success of Suu Kyi's party, "there is no path toward ending the military's extraordinary and powerful role in civilian politics." Under the current, junta-era constitution, the military controls three key government ministries and 25 percent of parliamentary seats.

Congressional aides briefed by the administration this week said they expect the sanctions authority to be renewed but for some non-military state-owned enterprises to be either removed from the Treasury blacklist, or get waivers. The aides spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to discuss the matter before the announcement. The aides said that the administration is also considering the duty-free trade benefits for Myanmar, but it's unclear when that might happen.

Vermont to require drug makers to explain price increases

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—Vermont is poised to become the first state requiring drug companies to explain their price increases, and Bob and Deborah Messing think that's a good idea.

The Messings live in Montpelier and are in their early 70s. She's on Orencia, a Bristol-Myers Squibb product, for rheumatoid arthritis. He recently finished a course of Harvoni, made by Gilead Sciences Inc., to treat hepatitis C.

Both drugs are expensive, though for people of the Messings' modest income, big manufacturers' discounts and state assistance make their costs manageable. Harvoni lists at $1,125 per pill, or $94,500 for a 12-week course of treatment. Orencia's list price tops $3,000 a month.

The Messings say they're mystified by the high prices and worried about what would happen if either the discounts or state assistance disappeared.

"Then you're faced with these wildly expensive costs," Deborah Messing said.

Drug prices have been a big issue nationwide, highlighted by Martin Shkreli, a boyish-looking, early-30s executive dubbed "Pharma Bro." He was CEO of Turing Pharmaceuticals when the company acquired rights to make Daraprim, which has been on the market since the 1950s and is used to treat a life-threatening parasitic infection. Turing raised the price from $13.50 to $750 per pill.

At a U.S. Senate Finance Committee hearing in March, Sen. Bob Casey, a Pennsylvania Democrat, called that move "pure evil."

Bob Messing pointed to a Harvoni predecessor, also made by Gilead: Sovaldi. Information gathered by the U.S. Senate Finance Committee in 2014 showed that the company that developed the drug, Pharmasset Inc., projected its price at $36,000 for a 12-week course of treatment. After Gilead acquired Pharmasset, the price jumped to $84,000.

Drug companies often counter that research and development of new medicines is costly, a view that got some support last month in a Boston Globe op-ed by Dr. Jeffrey S. Flier, dean of the Harvard Medical School.

"New drugs require expensive research and development under tight regulatory oversight. The cost of developing a single new drug may exceed $2 billion when including the cost of failures," Flier wrote.

Maduro threatens to seize idle Venezuela plants, jail owners

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Nicolas Maduro threatened Saturday to take over idle factories and jail their owners following a decree granting him expanded powers to act in the face of a deep economic crisis.

Maduro's remarks came as Venezuela's opposition warned the embattled leader that if he tries to block an attempt to hold a recall referendum, society could "explode."

Speaking to supporters in the capital, Caracas, the president ordered "all actions to recover the production apparatus, which is being paralyzed by the bourgeoisie."

He also said that business-people who "sabotage the country" by halting production at their plants risk being "put in handcuffs."

Last month the country's largest food and beverage distributor, Empresas Polar, shut down its last operating beer plant. It says it has been unable to access hard currency to buy raw materials.

Maduro accuses Polar and others of trying to destabilize the financially stricken country by exacerbating shortages of goods from foodstuffs to medicines to toilet paper.

Meanwhile dueling anti- and pro-government crowds demonstrated in Caracas on Saturday for and against a bid to recall the president. Maduro opponents demanded that the National Electoral Council rule on the validity of some 1.8 million signatures collected in favor of the referendum and allow it to move forward.

"If you obstruct the democratic way, we do not know what could happen in this country," opposition leader Henrique Capriles said at one rally. "Venezuela is a bomb that could explode at any moment."

Across town, Maduro ally Jorge Rodriguez vowed there would be no recall referendum.

"They got signatures from dead people, minors and undocumented foreigners," Rodriguez said.

Opposition leaders deny any fraud in the signature drive.

Friday's decree extended for 60 days Maduro's exceptional powers to address the crisis. Venezuela is suffering from multiple financial woes including rampant inflation and low prices for oil, the cornerstone of its economy.

Opposition leaders accuse Maduro and his predecessor, the late President Hugo Chavez, of mismanaging the economy. Maduro alleges that conservative political interests are waging what he calls an "economic war" seeking his ouster.

Nigerian Chevron facility bombed, ExxonMobil cuts exports

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—An explosion closed a second Chevron facility in Nigeria, witnesses said Friday, as renewed attacks by militants further cut production in Africa's biggest petroleum producer.

Adding to Nigeria's economic woes, Exxon Mobil on Friday said some production of Qua Iboe crude—the West African nation's largest crude grade—has halted because a drilling rig damaged a pipeline. The company declared force majeure, protecting it from contractual export obligations.

Nigeria's oil production already had reached a 20-year low of less than 1.6 million barrels a day from a projected 2.2 million, because of attacks on a Chevron platform last week and on a pipeline that forced Shell to declare force majeure on Bonny Light crude on Wednesday. The same day, Shell began evacuating workers from its offshore Bonga oilfield following a militant threat, though production there is continuing.

Shell's Forcados export terminal has been shut since a February bombing.

Villagers said militants attacked a Chevron well on Marakaba pipeline on Thursday. They requested anonymity for fear of repercussions amid a massive deployment of troops that has led more than 10,000 people to flee the fallout. Chevron did not respond to requests for comment.

A new group, the Niger Delta Avengers, has claimed most attacks. They want natives of the oil-producing southern Niger Delta to get a bigger share of oil wealth and are angry about cuts to an amnesty program that paid militants to guard the installations they once attacked.

There are suggestions the violence is being fueled by some Christian politicians in the oil-producing south opposed to President Muhammadu Buhari, a northern Muslim. Eurasia Group risk assessment said the sophistication of attacks points to such a scenario and would indicate the Avenger group "poses a greater threat than its small numbers and scant grassroots support would indicate."

The Nigerian production cuts have helped boost oil prices—to nearly $50 a barrel from under $30 a barrel in January—according to the International Energy Agency.

Nation

Schools offer lessons on accommodating transgender students

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—From locker rooms and sex education classes to dress codes and overnight field trips, many U.S. public schools already are balancing the civil rights of transgender students with any concerns that classmates, parents and community members might have.

The U.S. Department of Education is drawing on those practices to guide other schools as they work to comply with the Obama administration's directive that transitioning children be treated consistent with their gender identity.

That has been the policy since 2013 of the Arcadia Unified School District in Southern California. As part of a settlement with the federal departments of Justice and Education that became the foundation for the national mandate issued Friday, students may use the bathroom, locker room or wilderness cabin that corresponds with their recognized gender outside school, Superintendent David Vannasdall said.

"This is absolutely not about a student on a day-to-day basis saying, 'Today I'm a boy, tomorrow I'm a girl.' That has never happened," Vannasdall said. "By the time these students are at a point where they are asking for our help, they are presenting in all areas of their life as that gender."

The administration had warned schools before Friday that denying transgender students access to the correct facilities and activities was illegal under its interpretation of federal sex discrimination laws. But the new guidance, for the first time, offers advice for accommodating the privacy needs of nontransgender youngsters.

Citing guidelines adopted by Washington, New York, the District of Columbia and Atherton High School in Louisville, Kentucky, President Barack Obama's Education Department said schools could erect privacy curtains in changing areas, permit all students to make use of single-stall restrooms or work out other case-by-case arrangements as long as the burden doesn't rest exclusively on transgender students.

AP

In this photo taken May 13, 2016, Lincoln High School principal Peyton Chapman poses for a photo in the halls of the school in Portland, Ore., Friday, May 13, 2016.

"The concerns for right to privacy and safety of children applies to every single child, including the transgender child," said Atherton's principal, Thomas Aberli, who faced community opposition when he first allowed a transgender freshman to use the girls' restrooms two years ago. Since that first student, about a half-dozen more have come out as transgender, Aberli said.

Asaf Orr, a lawyer who directs the Transgender Youth Project Staff at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said the guidance could help temper the transgender rights backlash that the restroom issue has engendered in states such as North Carolina by showing that minority rights and privacy rights can co-exist if schools respect all students' need to be comfortable.

At least 13 states and the District of Columbia prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity in schools. Hundreds of school districts, from Anchorage, Alaska, and Tucson, Arizona, to Fairfax County, Virginia and Chicago, have adopted similar protections.

Nearly two dozen state high school sports federations have adopted rules governing the participation of transgender athletes on competitive teams, including the ones in South Dakota, Maryland and Nevada.

Obama to urge graduates to pursue progress in changing world

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama will urge this year's graduates at Rutgers University to pursue positive change in the world despite a cascade of challenges from student loan debt to overseas turmoil.

Obama's visit to the New Jersey campus on Sunday falls on the 250th anniversary of Rutgers, a public university that the White House has praised as a "remarkable institution of higher learning." University leaders have been lobbying the president for years to deliver what will be the school's first commencement speech by a sitting president.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama's speech at High Point Solutions Stadium in Piscataway would focus on how the Class of 2016 can navigate the rapidly changing planet.

"These students are as well-prepared as any students have ever been to confront those challenges and use this changing environment to create a better world," Earnest said. "That's what makes the president so fundamentally optimistic about the future of our country, and that optimism is manifested quite well in this year's graduating class at Rutgers."

In an unusual move, the president granted a pre-commencement interview to the Daily Targum, the college newspaper, after the editor-in-chief put Obama on the spot by requesting it on live television during a recent White House visit.

Quizzed about student loans and college affordability, Obama stressed that the modern economy will require highly educated workers, but he added that his ability to restructure financial aid was limited barring new laws from Congress.

"The basic principle that we should be working towards is that everyone needs more than just a secondary school education, whether it's a two-year or four-year degree," Obama said. "And that it's got to be affordable. We can't have situations where young people are loaded up with $50,000, $75,000 or $100,000 worth of debt coming out of school."

Sunday's address is the second of three commencement speeches that Obama will deliver during his final graduation season as president. Earlier in May, Obama told graduates at historically black Howard University that the country is "a better place today" than when he graduated from Columbia University more than 30 years ago. The president will also speak on June 2 at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

NTSB to probe South Texas bus crash leaving 8 dead, 44 hurt

LAREDO, Texas (AP)—Federal authorities on Sunday will begin to investigate what caused a charter bus headed to a casino to crash in far South Texas, killing eight people and injuring 44 others in a one-vehicle rollover, officials said.

Seven people died at the scene Saturday on U.S. Highway 83 about 46 miles north of Laredo and another died later at a Laredo hospital, Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Conrad Hein said.

"The driver of the bus lost control and rolled over," he said. "Everything's real preliminary right now."

Hein said the driver was among the survivors. His name and the names of passengers were not immediately available, Hein said.

The trooper said it was raining Saturday morning but it was uncertain if that was a factor in the crash that occurred just before 11:30 a.m. He said no other vehicles were in the area at the time.

"Our troopers are going to look into what happened but it's going to take us some time," he said of the investigation. "We just know the driver lost control."

The National Transportation Safety Board said Saturday night it was sending a team to also investigate the wreck. They were expected to arrive Sunday.

Webb County Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ricardo Rangel told the Laredo Morning Times the bus belonged to OGA Charters was headed to a casino in Eagle Pass, about 125 miles northwest of Laredo. The bus company is based in San Juan, in Hidalgo County in Texas' Rio Grande Valley. A message left at the bus company Saturday was not immediately returned.

Hein said 23 people were taken to Doctors Hospital in Laredo, where the eighth victim died. Fifteen were taken to Laredo Medical Center. Seven were taken to a Dimmit County hospital in Carrizo Springs.

Priscilla Salinas, a spokeswoman for Laredo Medical Center, said bus passengers being treated there were in stable condition. She said she could share no additional information.

Ruled 'broken,' Texas foster care system faces long overhaul

DALLAS (AP)—At 5, the girl identified as S.A. entered the Texas foster care system. Within months, she reported being raped by an older child. She was moved more than 45 times, including to psychiatric hospitals, and missed several chances for adoption because of paperwork delays. At 18, after aging out of the system, she walked into traffic and was hit by a car. At last report, she was living in a homeless shelter.

Her story, detailed in court records, was among scores of chronic foster care failures that led a federal judge to declare the Texas system unconstitutionally flawed and order an independent overhaul. Unlike most other states under similar orders, Texas is fighting the ruling—even as two court-appointed administrators face a September deadline to present a reform plan.

The system, which has about 30,000 children in homes and institutional settings, is "broken, and it has been that way for decades," U.S. District Judge Janis Graham Jack said in her December ruling. That's especially true for those labeled permanent wards of the state, she said, who "almost uniformly leave state custody more damaged than when they entered."

That label, covering about 12,000 children on whose behalf the suit was brought, can be affixed after a child spends just a year in custody and means they receive less care and oversight, Jack said.

Another troubling aspect of Texas' system, the judge wrote, was allowing "foster group homes." Texas' stated allowance of up to 12 children in such homes, including the caregivers' own, was exceeded, Jack said, calling them "a hybrid" between traditional foster homes and institutional facilities that provided "fewer benefits ... and fewer safeguards."

Jack said the sexual assault of and by foster children was a special problem in the foster group homes. She noted a boy identified as D.I. who was sexually abused from age 8, saying the system tried to cover it up and there was no indication he was ever placed in a single-child home. An expert testified that D.I. had become "a high risk for sexually harming children."

Kristopher Sharp, who spent eight years in the Texas system and advocates for reform, is heartened by the judge's ruling. "We're constantly being told no, we're making stuff up or it's not that bad or whatever. And here it is, this federal judge is saying it's just as bad as people are saying it is—and in fact, it's even worse."

Asia

Maoists still a force 50 years after the Cultural Revolution

LUOYANG, China (AP)—Fifty years after Mao Zedong unleashed the decade-long Cultural Revolution to reassert his authority and revive his radical communist agenda, the spirit of modern China's founder still exerts a powerful pull.

Millions of people were persecuted, publicly humiliated, beaten or killed during the upheaval, as zealous factionalism metastasized countrywide, tearing apart Chinese society at a most basic level.

Student groups tortured their own teachers, and children were made to watch mobs beat their own parents condemned as counter-revolutionaries. Gangs engaging in "armed struggle" killed at least a half million people while countless more committed suicide, unable to cope with relentless persecution.

It was only in 1981—five years after Mao's death—that China's government officially pronounced the Cultural Revolution "a catastrophe."

In the ancient city of Luoyang, the old, the poor and the marginalized gather daily in the main public square to profess nostalgia for the decade-long political movement, while downplaying that period's violent excesses. In the marble halls of power in Beijing, Cultural Revolution-era song-and-dance performances are being revived. China's liberals see ominous signs of a society tugged backward by ideological currents.

"Either it's because people have forgotten the Cultural Revolution or are increasingly dissatisfied with social conditions, but since the mid-1990s these kinds of ideas have been gaining currency," said Xu Youyu, a former Chinese Academy of Social Sciences researcher.

Incoming PH govt to continue high-growth path

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The transition team of Rodrigo Duterte, the presumptive Philippine president, said Thursday his administration will continue the macroeconomic policies of his predecessor that put the Southeast Asian nation on a high growth path.

Duterte's team says they also plan to stamp out corruption in revenue collecting agencies, adjust income taxes, lift restrictions on foreign investment and accelerate infrastructure spending as part of their 8-point economic agenda.

Carlos Dominguez, a former agricultural secretary likely to be part of Duterte's cabinet, said the new administration will continue Aquino's target of spending 5 percent of gross domestic product on infrastructure and will remove bottlenecks to private-public partnerships projects.

The new government will also focus on eliminating corruption in the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs through reforms in the bureaucracy. It will adjust income tax tables to inflation that will lower taxes for lower-income earners. The current income tax rates have not been adjusted since 1997 and are among the highest in the region.

"This will fulfill the president-elect's promise that there will be less corruption in the government," Dominguez said of the revenue agency reforms.

To ensure the attractiveness of the Philippines to foreign direct investments, he said the government will address restrictive economic provisions in the constitution and laws, cut red tape and reduce crimes to increase the security of businessmen and consumers.

It will also focus on supporting small farmers' productivity, improving market access, forging partnerships with agricultural business companies and encouraging more agriculture processing in agricultural areas as part of a rural development strategy.

"We are going to focus on the two-thirds of the population that are poor and who live in the rural areas," Dominguez said. "This also means that we are going to promote tourism in the rural areas."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Report: China has reclaimed 3,200 acres in South China Sea

WASHINGTON (AP)—China has reclaimed more than 3,200 acres of land in the southeastern South China Sea. But the country's focus has shifted to developing and weaponizing those man-made islands so it will have greater control over the maritime region without resorting to armed conflict, according to a new Pentagon report. In its most detailed assessment to date of China's island-building program, the Defense Department said three of the land features in the Spratly Islands now have nearly 10,000-foot runways and large ports in various stages of construction. And it has excavated deep channels, created and dredged harbors, and constructed communications, logistics and intelligence gathering facilities.

Bangladesh police say Buddhist monk killed in monastery

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A 75-year-old Buddhist monk has been killed in a monastery in southeastern Bangladesh, police said Saturday. The body of Maung Shue U. Chak was found Saturday morning by his daughter-in-law when she went to give him some food, local police official Abul Khayer said. His throat had been slit overnight. While no one immediately claimed responsibility for the killing, it follows a slew of murders in recent years of members of religious minority groups, foreigners, atheist bloggers and secular publishers in Bangladesh by suspected Islamist radicals. The killings have come amid growing concern that religious extremism is gaining ground in the Muslim-majority nation of 160 million.

Truck, rickshaw collision in southern India kills 16 people

HYDERABAD, India (AP)—A truck and an overcrowded motorized rickshaw collided in southern India, killing 16 people, half of them from a single family, police said Sunday. All the victims came from the rickshaw and were on their way to a temple in Adilabad district of Telangana state on Saturday night. The area is 270 kilometers (170 miles) northeast of Hyderabad, the state capital, said police officer A. Ramulu. Another three people were hospitalized. The dead included eight members of a family and were mostly brick kiln workers. Road accidents are common in India, due mainly to reckless driving, vehicle overcrowding, badly maintained roads and aged vehicles. About 240,000 people die on the road every year.

World

Hezbollah says commander killed by shelling from Syrian insurgent

BEIRUT (AP)—The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah said Saturday that the explosion in Damascus that killed its top militant commander was caused by insurgent shelling and vowed to continue fighting alongside the Syrian government until the rebels are defeated.

Hezbollah supporters carry the picture of their slain commander Mustafa Badreddine, who was killed in Syria, during his funeral procession in a southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, Friday, May 13, 2016. AP

Mustafa Badreddine was the highest-ranking Hezbollah militant to be killed since the group joined Syria's civil four years ago.

Hezbollah said the blast near the Damascus International Airport was caused by artillery shelling from "takfiri" groups, a term Hezbollah uses to refer to Sunni extremists.

The area on the southern edge of the Syrian capital is known to host positions of several militant groups, including al-Qaida's branch in Syria, known as the Nusra Front.

A Lebanese politician with close links to the Syrian government told The Associated Press that Badreddine was killed Thursday night when a shell exploded near him outside a Hezbollah center near the airport. The politician spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to reveal information about the incident.

He said Badreddine might have been killed by the pressure of the blast since his shrapnel wounds did not appear to be fatal.

Hezbollah and the Syrian army have a heavy presence around the airport, which includes a military base, the politician said. He said the area is subjected to regular shelling.

Rami Abdurrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said that according to his network of activists in the area, there has been no shelling in the airport area since Wednesday.

Mexico court absolves soldiers in army killing of suspects

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A Mexican civilian court has freed the last three soldiers accused of homicide in a 2014 incident in which at least a dozen suspects were allegedly executed after they surrendered.

The federal Attorney General's Office emailed a news release shortly after 11 p.m. Friday saying the court absolved all three of charges of homicide, cover-up and alteration of evidence for lack of proof.

Santiago Aguirre, deputy director of the nonprofit Miguel Agustin Pro Juarez Center for Human Rights, which is representing a woman who survived the incident but whose daughter was killed, said authorities cannot appeal the ruling but families of the victims may still do so.

If there is no appeal, the decision could signal an end to a case that rights groups see as emblematic of abuses by some agents in the Mexican security forces.

"This confirms what we had been warning, in the sense that one of the most serious recent cases of human rights violations was on the way to going unpunished," Aguirre said.

The Mexican army reported in June 2014 that 22 presumed criminals had died in a clash with troops at a warehouse in the town of Tlatlaya west of Mexico City. It said only one soldier was wounded.

But questions emerged when The Associated Press found that evidence at the site didn't match the army's account of a clash with drug suspects. There was little sign of a protracted gun battle.

5 Boko Haram leaders arrested; dozens of captives freed

YAOUNDE, Cameroon (AP—The multinational forces fighting the Islamic extremists of Boko Haram have arrested five of the group's leaders and freed dozens of captive women and children, Cameroon's government announced Saturday.

The raids targeting Boko Haram bases in the northern Madawaya forest earlier this month freed 28 children and at least 18 women, government spokesman Issa Tchiroma said.

Boko Haram had set up camp in the forest after fleeing another military operation in neighboring Nigeria and had been training captive young girls and women as suicide bombers, he said.

The news came as French President Francois Hollande joined several West African leaders at a summit in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, where they discussed progress in the fight against Boko Haram and how to resolve the humanitarian crisis it has created. The extremist group has forced more than 2 million people to flee their homes, some across borders.

"We have to make sure they can get back to their homes," Hollande said after meeting with Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari before the summit, noting the need for "the right development policies." Marginalization and corruption has allowed the Islamic extremists to flourish in northeast Nigeria.

Both leaders stressed the success of a multinational force of Nigeria and its neighbors—helped by training, intelligence and information-sharing by France, Britain and the United States—that has recaptured territory where Boko Haram had declared an Islamic caliphate.

Focus

AP
A shopper examines a point-and-shoot camera while shopping for electronics at a Target store in West Hollywood, California, on Nov. 28, 2008.

California ballot measure blamed for shoplifting jump

By DON THOMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROCKLIN, Calif. (AP)— Perry Lutz says his struggle to survive as a small businessman became a lot harder after California voters reduced theft penalties 1 1/2 years ago.

About a half-dozen times this year, shoplifters have stolen expensive drones or another of the remote-controlled toys he sells in HobbyTown USA, a small shop in Rocklin, northeast of Sacramento. "It's just pretty much open season," Lutz said. "They'll pick the $800 unit and just grab it and run out the door."

Anything below $950 keeps the crime a misdemeanor - and likely means the thieves face no pursuit and no punishment, say retailers and law enforcement officials. Large retailers including Safeway, Target, Rite Aid and CVS pharmacies say shoplifting increased at least 15 percent, and in some cases, doubled since voters approved Proposition 47 and ended the possibility of charging shoplifting as a felony with the potential for a prison sentence.

Shoplifting reports to the Los Angeles Police Department jumped by a quarter in the first year, according to statistics the department compiled for The Associated Press. The ballot measure also lowered penalties for forgery, fraud, petty theft and drug possession.

Public Policy Institute of California researcher Magnus Lofstrom noted a troubling increase in property crime in California's largest cities in the first half-year after Proposition 47 took effect. Preliminary FBI crime reports show a 12 percent jump in larceny-theft, which includes shoplifting, but he said it is too early to determine what, if any, increase is due to the ballot measure.

The increase in shoplifting reports set up a debate over how much criminals pay attention to penalties, and whether law enforcement is doing enough to adapt to the legal change.

Prosecutors, police and retailers, including California Retailers Association President Bill Dombrowski and CVS Health spokesman Mike DeAngelis, say the problem is organized retail theft rings whose members are well aware of the reduced penalties.

"The law didn't account for that," said Capt. John Romero, commander of the LAPD's commercial crimes division. "It did not give an exception for organized retail theft, so we're seeing these offenders benefiting and the retailers are paying the price."

Lenore Anderson, executive director of Californians for Safety and Justice, who led the drive to pass Proposition 47, said law enforcement still has plenty of tools, including using the state's general conspiracy law and proving that the same thief is responsible for multiple thefts that together top $950.

Shoplifting rings generally recruit society's most vulnerable - the homeless, low-end drug users, those living in the country illegally - to steal merchandise that can be sold for a discount on the streets or over the Internet, said Joseph LaRocca, a Los Angeles-based theft-prevention consultant and formerly the National Retail Federation's vice president of loss prevention.

While misdemeanors, in theory, can bring up to a year in county jail, Fresno Police Sgt. Mark Hudson said it's not worth it to issue a citation or arrest a suspect who would likely be immediately released because of overcrowding.

"We've heard of cases where they're going into stores with a calculator so they can make sure that what they steal is worth less than $950," said Robin Shakely, Sacramento County assistant chief deputy district attorney.

Adam Gelb, director of the public safety performance project at The Pew Charitable Trusts, disputes those sorts of anecdotes.

"The vast majority of offenders just aren't fine-tuning their behavior that way," Gelb said.

His organization recently reported finding no effect on property crimes and larceny rates in 23 states that increased the threshold to charge thefts as felonies instead of misdemeanors between 2001 and 2011. California raised its threshold from $400 in 2010.

"It's hard to see how raising the level to $950 in California would touch off a property crime wave when raising it to $2,000 in South Carolina six years ago hasn't registered any impact at all," Gelb said.

The study did not include the effects of Proposition 47, but Gelb and other Pew researchers said there is no reason to believe adding shoplifting to the list would spark an increase in thefts.

California is among 17 states without an organized retail crime law that specifically targets shoplifting rings with tougher penalties, according to the Organized Retail Crime Resource Center. Results vary: Of the top five states for shoplifting last year, three - Florida, Pennsylvania and Texas - had such laws, while California and New York did not.

For his part, Lutz, the hobby shop owner, has provided police with surveillance videos, and even the license plate, make and model of the getaway vehicles.

"They go, 'Perry, our hands are tied because it's a misdemeanor,'" Lutz said. "It's not worth pursuing, it's just a waste of manpower."

Health & Fitness

Quinn on Nutrition: Edible petals pack nutrients

By BARBARA QUINN
THE MONTEREY COUNTY HERALD

No, I wasn't attracted to this wine promotion just because it is the same name as my nephew, Josh. I was curious with this company's idea that the scent of a spring flower is much like the aroma of a favorite glass of wine.

We can do more than just smell flowers this spring. Many of these pretties are edible, say plant experts. Add flower petals to salads, cheese spreads or salad dressings. Freeze them in ice cubes to dress up cold beverages. Some flowers can even be used to make wine.

The scientific name for people who eat flowers for food is floriphagia (flori-FA-gea). And it's not a particularly new practice, say food historians. Native Americans for example, have long enjoyed eating blossoms from pumpkin and squash plants.

Edible flowers can also contribute to our nutritional health, according to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND). Although nutritional analyses of edible flowers is limited, researchers have identified several nutrients in the petals of flowers including vitamins A and C, riboflavin, niacin and minerals such as calcium, phosphorous, iron and potassium.

Colorful flowers also signal the presence of phytochemicals (natural substances in plants) found to be beneficial to human health. Pigments that make roses red and nasturtiums orange for example, are rich in substances called polyphenols. These compounds are rich in antioxidant properties which may help prevent chronic diseases such as heart disease and cancer.

Be cautious before imbibing on any flower in the garden, however. Some plants and their flowers are poisonous, caution experts at the College of Agriculture at North Carolina State University. (http://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/category/ poisonous-plants/.)

Further, do not eat flowers purchased at a nursery or roadside stand unless it is labeled as edible. And avoid any flowers that have been sprayed with pesticides not approved for edible plants or grown in soil fertilized with untreated manure (that which has not been composted).

TNS
Plant experts say many flowers are more than just eye candy and not only edible, but can contribute to our nutritional health.

And if you suffer with allergies or hay fever this time of year, flower pollen might not be the best idea.

Here are a few edible flower offerings:

Chocolate Cosmos (Cosmos atrosanguineus) is dark burgundy colored and has the aroma of dark chocolate… yum. Add the petals or young leaves to salads, say culinary experts. Enjoy with a glass of Cabernet Savignon, say experts at Josh Cellars.

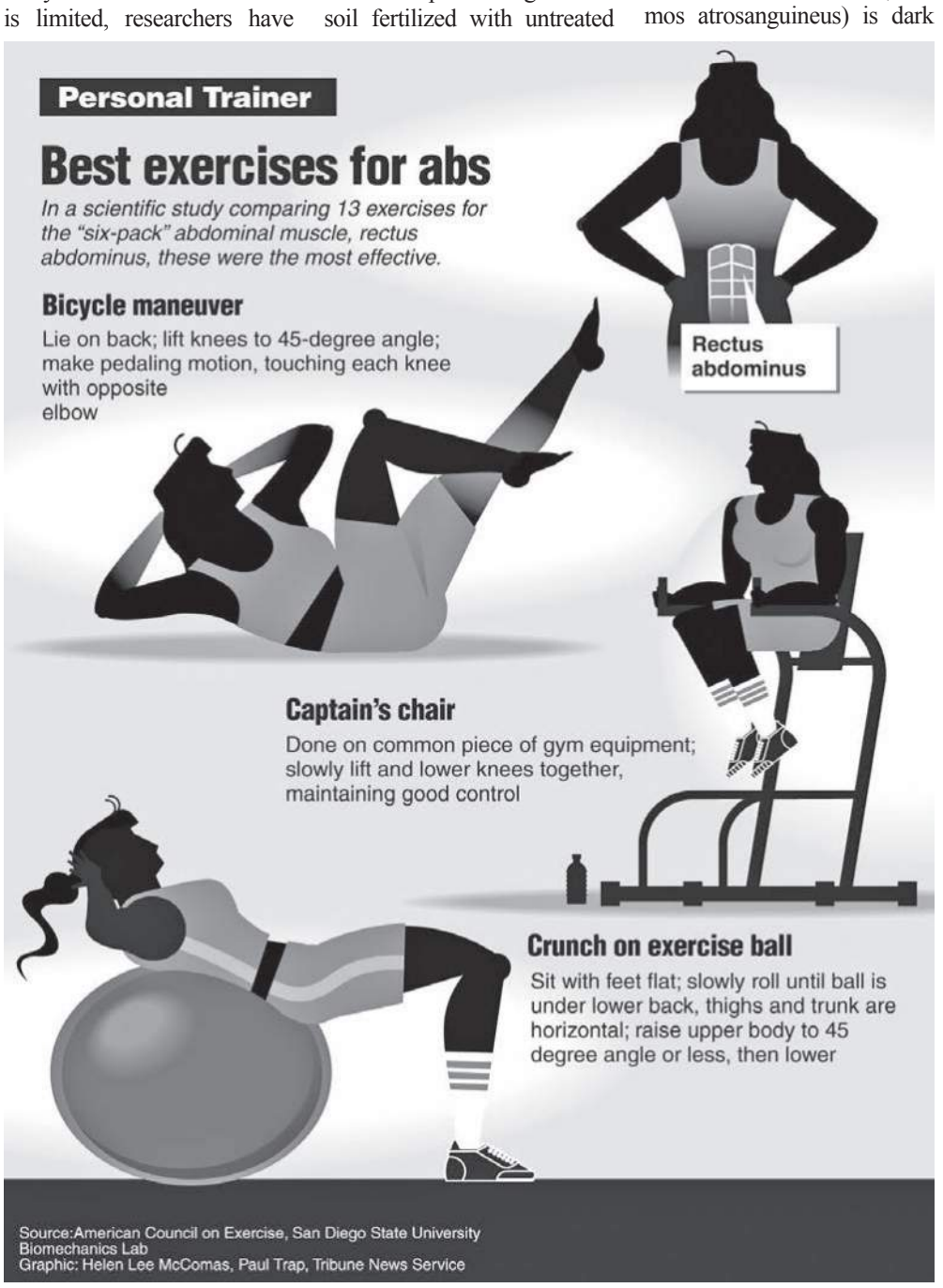
Rose petals. Rose hips — the round part of the flower just below the petals — have been found to contain vitamin C, a potent antioxidant nutrient. And if roses smell good, they will probably taste good, say food experts. Use rose petals to garnish summer beverages and fruit dishes. Rose petals also make attractive cake decorations.

Lavender. Use lavender flowers in sweet as well as savory dishes, say garden experts Thompson & Morgan. Or check out the Lavender Harvest Celebration this summer at Bernardus Lodge in Carmel Valley, Calif., with a sumptuous lunch buffet infused with lavender delicacies. (My favorite in years past was lavender lemonade.)

Nasturtium If you can learn to spell these delightful garden climbers, you deserve to eat them. Nasturtiums are related to the cruciferous vegetable family known for their cancer-fighting abilities. Similar in taste to its close family member watercress, Nasturtium leaves and flowers have a peppery flavor that can spice up salads or sandwiches. Use the flowers to garnish steaks or casseroles, suggests Thompson & Morgan.

By the way Dandelion — the flower I love to hate — is also edible if it's not soaked in pesticide. Some folks even make wine from it. I think I'll stick to a nice Chardonnay.

Barbara Quinn is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator at the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. She is the author of "Quinn-Essential Nutrition" (Westbow Press, 2015). Email her at barbaraquinn88@yahoo.com.


Personal Trainer
Best exercises for abs
In a scientific study comparing 13 exercises for the "six-pack" abdominal muscle, rectus abdominus, these were the most effective.
Bicycle maneuver
Lie on back; lift knees to 45-degree angle; make pedaling motion, touching each knee with opposite elbow
Rectus abdominus
Captain's chair
Done on common piece of gym equipment; slowly lift and lower knees together, maintaining good control
Crunch on exercise ball
Sit with feet flat; slowly roll until ball is under lower back, thighs and trunk are horizontal; raise upper body to 45 degree angle or less, then lower
Source:American Council on Exercise, San Diego State University Biomechanics Lab
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

Why squats are vital for young, elderly

By ALISON BOWEN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Strong leg muscles can be the key to steadiness, no matter what age you are.

One of the most important exercises people can do to retain balance and strength as they get older is the squat.

Gozo said squats have other benefits. When done right, squats can also strengthen ankles and the core, she said.

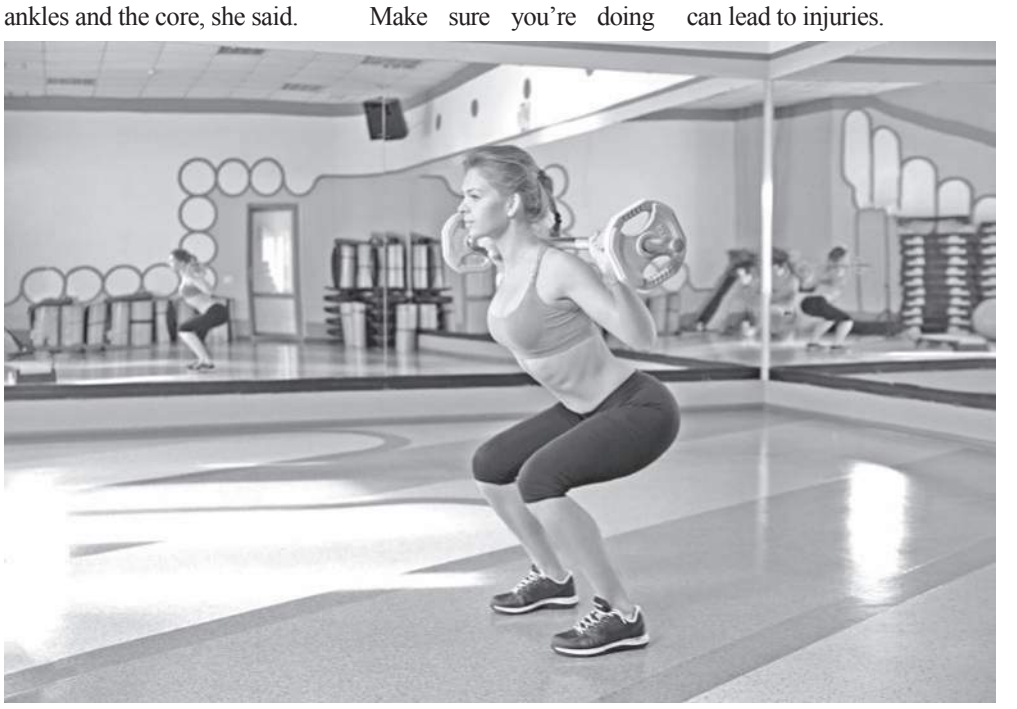
"The squat is the best way to start, because we use our feet for so many things on a daily basis," she said.

Plus, so many variations are available — single leg squats, side squats, squat jumps, squat holds — that you shouldn't get bored with the exercise.

"Our bodies should be able to move in all planes of motion in order to live long, functional lives," Gozo said.

Make sure you're doing them correctly: Stand with feet about hips-distance apart, keeping your back parallel to your shins; sit back as if you're sitting in a chair; then push your hips forward to bring yourself back to standing.

Don't let your heels come off the ground, Gozo adds, or extend your knees past your toes. You should also consider consulting with a fitness professional — incorrect form can lead to injuries.



Strong leg muscles can be the key to steadiness, no matter what age you are. TNS

Life & Style

Doctor: Ex-wrestler Superfly mentally incompetent

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Professional wrestler Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka suffered so many blows to the head during his long career—even getting a coconut smashed on his skull—that he now suffers from dementia and is mentally incompetent to stand trial in the death of his girlfriend more than three decades ago, a psychologist testified Friday.

Snuka's severe mental impairment also stems from a history of abusing alcohol and cocaine, Dr. Frank Dattilio testified at the wrestling star's competency hearing.

Snuka was charged with murder and involuntary manslaughter last year in the 1983 death of 23-year-old Nancy Argentino, who was from New York. Snuka's lawyer asserts he doesn't understand the charges or even know he was arrested.

Lehigh County Judge Kelly Banach, after hearing from prosecution and defense experts, will decide if Snuka is competent to stand trial.

Snuka, who was in the courtroom for Friday's hearing in Allentown, has pleaded not guilty and is free on bail. His attorney, Robert Kirwan II, has called Argentino's death an "unfortunate accident."

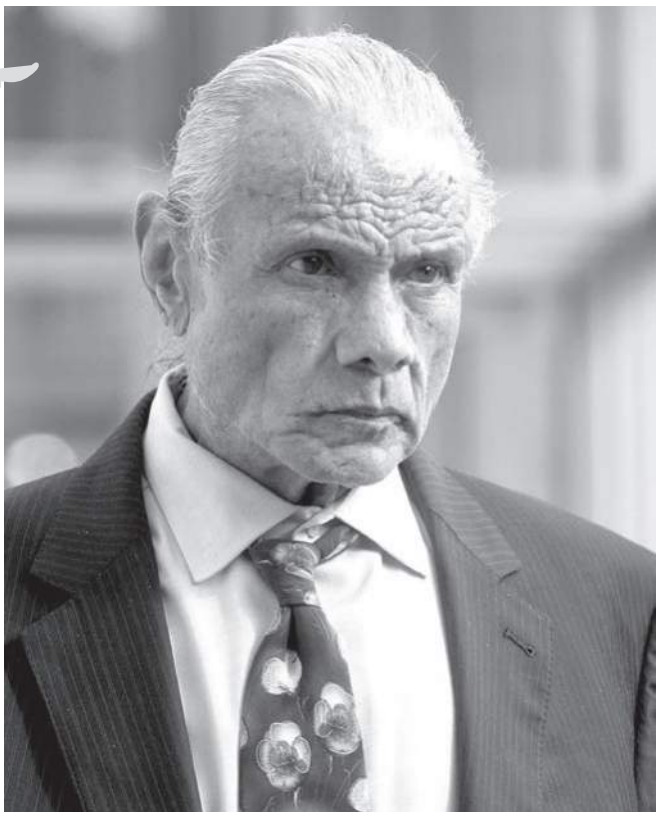
Dattilio, testifying for the defense, said he had a "hell of a time" trying to get even basic background information from Snuka. The psychologist said Snuka can't assist in his own defense and quoted one of Snuka's doctors as saying he's a "shell of a man."

"This is permanent damage, and he's not likely to be restored to competence," Dattilio said.

He recounted an infamous televised scene from 1984 in which another wrestler, Roddy Piper, broke a coconut over Snuka's head. He said one side of the coconut had been shaved down so that it would easily break, but Piper inadvertently used the hard side of the fruit on Snuka's skull.

Prosecutors assert Snuka is well enough to stand trial. During cross-examination, they played a video that showed him in the ring as recently as last year—even doing his trademark move, the Superfly Splash, albeit from the second turnbuckle instead of the top.

Another video showed him giving an interview recently in which he appeared lucid and in character.



AP

In this Nov. 2, 2015 file photo, former professional wrestler Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka, right, leaves the Lehigh County Courthouse in Allentown, Pa.

Snuka is trying to avoid trial in a case that was long dormant.

The wrestler had been at a World Wrestling Federation taping at the Allentown Fairgrounds, and he told police shortly after Argenito's death that he had returned to their Whitehall Township hotel room to find her unresponsive in bed. She was pronounced dead at a hospital several hours later.

An autopsy determined she died of traumatic brain injuries and had more than three dozen cuts and bruises, and it concluded her injuries were consistent with being hit with a stationary object. But the probe went cold, and Snuka continued his high-profile pro wrestling career.

After a 2013 story by The Morning Call newspaper raised questions about the case, Argentino's sisters approached Lehigh County District Attorney Jim Martin, who reopened the investigation.

A grand jury report said Snuka, a Fiji native who lives in Waterford Township, New Jersey, had provided more than a half-dozen shifting accounts of Argentino's injuries, at first telling paramedics he hit her during an argument outside their hotel room and she struck her head on concrete, then saying to police she slipped and fell during a bathroom break on their way to the hotel.

Spielberg says 'BFG' is closest he's come to 'a love story'

CANNES, France (AP)—Steven Spielberg, a giant in the world of cinema, landed at the Cannes Film Festival on Saturday with his gentle Roald Dahl adaptation "The BFG."

The film, about a young orphan (Ruby Barnhill) taken away by a friendly, big-eared giant (recent Oscar winner Mark Rylance), marks a return for Spielberg to the magical kind of fable he has largely moved away from in recent years. It's also his second film with "E.T." writer Melissa Mathison, who died last November. Spielberg has dedicated "The BFG" (Big Friendly Giant) to her.

"It's a love story that children have for their grandparents. It's a love story that grandparents have for their children," Spielberg told reporters Saturday. "I think this probably the closest I've ever come to telling a love story."

Sitting between his young star and his new favorite actor (Rylance is starring in the director's next two films as well), Spielberg said enchanting fantasies like "The BFG" are just as vital as more realistic tales.

"The worse the world gets, the more magic we have to believe in," said Spielberg. "Hope comes from magic and I think that's what movies can give people. They can give people hope that there will be a reason to fight on to the next day. Hope is everything to me."

AP

Director Steven Spielberg poses for photographers during a photo to call for the film The BFG at the 69th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Saturday, May 14, 2016.

Spielberg acknowledged his interest has recently drifted to historical dramas like "Lincoln" and last year's "Bridge of Spies," but he said making "The BFG" was liberating.

"It was revisiting something that I've always loved to do, which is just to tell stories that are from the imagination," he said. "It brought back feelings I had as a younger filmmaker."

"The BFG," which drew warmly respectful reviews in its Cannes premiere, is largely faithful to Dahl's 1982 classic and was made in concert with the Dahl estate. (The author died in 1990.) Producer Kathleen Kennedy first obtained the rights in 1993 and later turned to Mathison for the script.

Spielberg called collaborating with Mathison again "a wonderful reunion and a very bittersweet time, as it turned out, for us."

Dahl was famously anti-Israel and some considered him anti-Semitic. Asked about whether that was an issue for him, Spielberg said he wasn't aware of that, and was only concerned with adapting a book he frequently read to his seven children.

"The BFG," which Disney will release in July, played out of competition in Cannes. Spielberg was last at the French Riviera festival in 2014 as president of the jury.

Rylance, who won a best supporting Oscar for his Soviet spy Rudolph Abel in "Bridge of Spies," performed the Big Friendly Giant through motion capture. The actor is also to co-star in Spielberg's upcoming sci-fi thriller "Ready Player One" and will play Pope Pius IX in the director's "The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara."

Spielberg described Rylance as not only a new collaborator but a close friend. He called Rylance's transformation from the quiet Abel of "Bridge of Spies" to the whimsical colossus of "The BFG" as "one of the most astonishing experiences I've ever had in my entire career working with anybody."

Above all, the director sounded no less enthralled by moviemaking at age 69.

"This is something I'll be doing for the rest of my life," said Spielberg.

Comic book artist Darwyn Cooke dies at 53

AP

This image provided by DC Entertainment on Saturay, May 14, 2016 shows work by Darwyn Cooke.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Darwyn Cooke, the comic book artist best known for his vibrantly imaginative work on DC superheroes and noir crime stories, has died. He was 53.

Cooke's wife, Marsha Cooke, said he died Saturday morning at his home in Florida following a battle with lung cancer.

Cooke famously reimagined the Justice League members in 2004 with a signature retro style in "DC: The New Frontier."

His other work included gritty adaptations of Richard Stark's "Parker" novels, a modern interpretation of Catwoman and the "Solo" graphic novel series, which earned Cooke an Eisner Award, considered to be the Academy Awards of the comics world.

"This is an industry-wide loss that I feel personally, but the sadness is mitigated in the knowing that the beauty and grace of his art will forever stand the test of time and be a monument to all that is great about comics," said DC Comics co-publisher Dan DiDio in statement.

The Toronto, Canada-born artist also worked as a storyboard artist on the 1990s shows "Batman: The Animated Series" and "Superman: The Animated Series."

"Everybody remembers Darwyn Cooke for his DC work," filmmaker Guillermo del Toro posted on Twitter. "I remember him for adapting the Parker books with bravado and love."

Cooke's most recent work included illustrating "The Twilight Children" for DC's Vertigo imprint.

Jane Fonda needed therapy, acting coach to make Netflix show

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Jane Fonda says the challenges of episodic television made her seek counseling.

The 78-year-old actress co-stars with Lily Tomlin in the Netflix series "Grace and Frankie." The show's second season premiered last week, and it has been renewed for a third.

But that first season was a doozy, Fonda said Saturday at a Netflix luncheon celebrating the "rebels and rule breakers" behind its hit shows.

"I didn't realize what a completely different animal episodic television is. It was really hard for me the first season. I kind of fell apart," said the actress, agelessly fashionable in a Zuhair Murad floral suit. "So I went back into therapy, and I got an acting coach."

AP

Actresses Lily Tomlin, left, and Jane Fonda arrive together at the Rebels With A Cause Gala at The Barker Hangar on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, in Santa Monica, Calif.

When the audience at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel laughed, Fonda responded: "No, it's true! And I'm proud of that at my age."

Fonda has won two Oscars for best actress in a leading role.

Fonda appeared at a panel alongside "Grace and Frankie" creator Marta Kauffman, "Orange is the New Black" creator Jenji Kohan and star Laura Prepon, "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" star Carol Kane, "Jessica Jones" star Krysten Ritter, and new Netflix talk-show host Chelsea Handler, whose show premiered this week.

Sweet Honey in the Rock protesting during NC shows

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The a cappella group Sweet Honey in the Rock is protesting North Carolina's law addressing LGBT rights and bathroom use by transgender people during its concerts in the state this weekend.

The group performed as scheduled but protested in song at the Paramount Theatre in Goldsboro, North Carolina, on Friday, and plans to again at the High Point Theatre in High Point, North Carolina, on Saturday night.

"We gave a shout-out to everyone and performed a civil rights medley," said group member Carol Maillard on Saturday morning. "As I always say, you never know when you'll need a good, strong protest song to bring your community together so they can raise their voices."

The long-running African-American female performance group was founded in 1973 and has been nominated for several Grammy Awards.

Bruce Springsteen, Pearl Jam, Blue Man Group, Cirque du Soleil, Nick Jonas and Demi Lovato have all cancelled performances in North Carolina since the law was passed in March. Maillard said the group never considered canceling the shows in North Carolina.

AP

In this April 12, 2009 file photo, Sweet Honey in the Rock performs during an event to commemorate Marian Anderson's performance 70 years ago, at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.

Prince guitar to be auctioned in Beverly Hills

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A bright yellow, uniquely shaped guitar used by Prince to perform such tunes as "Cream" and "Gett Off" is going up for auction.

Heritage Auctions is selling one of the late artist's "yellow cloud" electric guitars beginning June 24 with an opening bid of $30,000. The guitar was one of several custom guitars Prince used in the 1980s and 1990s.

"I've been a Prince fan since I was a little kid, and that guitar always stuck out to me because it was super cool and stylish," said current owner Richard Lecce, who bought it for about $30,000 over a year ago from Heritage Auctions.

The instrument features a serial number and comes with a letter of authenticity from Prince guitar technician Zeke Clark, who noted that the guitar's neck was broken in France in 1994 and later repaired.

"Unfortunately, as morbid as it is, when people pass, their items become more valuable," Lecce said. "I think something as valuable as this could be too risky to continue to have in my possession."

Lecce, who doesn't play any musical instruments, said that other than posing for a few photos with the guitar when he first received it, he has kept it in pristine condition.

Prince employed other similarly shaped guitars in various colors. The instrument's flowing form went on to become part of the musician's iconic symbol.

Other items up for auction in Beverly Hills, California, include Prince record-sales awards and an original demo tape featuring the songs "Just as Long as We're Together," ''My Love Is Forever" and "Jelly Jam."

Another "yellow cloud" guitar is currently on display at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Prince was found dead April 21 at age 57 in his Paisley Park recording complex in Chanhassen, Minnesota.

AP

In this Feb. 4, 2007 file photo, Prince performs during the halftime show at the Super Bowl XLI football game at Dolphin Stadium in Miami.

Spray tanning for preteen girl is not recommended

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband has suggested and arranged for a series of spray-tan sessions for my 12-year-old daughter. I feel that telling my preteen girl that she should spray tan is sending her the wrong message, and we should instead be teaching her that she's beautiful just the way she is.

How do you feel about this? Should I allow my 12- year-old daughter to tan?

TAN OR NOT IN TEXAS

DEAR TAN OR NOT: NO! Your ex-husband may mean well, but unless a product is 100 percent safe, I cannot endorse using it on a minor child. According to Darrell Rigel, M.D., professor of dermatology at New York University, any absorption of DHA—the main ingredient in spray tans—can pose a potential risk of genetic mutations, especially in repeated users of the product and those in higher risk groups such as pregnant women and young children. (By the way, salon workers who apply these products repeatedly throughout the workday should also be aware of this.)

For more information about this, visit: abcn.ws/1K0p8x9. The ABC investigative report is a must-read. Frankly, it curled my hair.

DEAR ABBY: I work at an urban high school. Recently there was a campus-wide fundraising campaign during which one of the teachers sold brownies. A student bought all of them for $1 each, then resold them at lunch for $2 apiece for his own profit. My co-workers insist this was wrong, while I feel it was representative of an enterprising spirit.

My co-workers say it was immoral to make money off a fundraising event. I maintain that the charity was already paid for the brownies, and what he did with them after he bought them is immaterial. What do you think?

WONDERING IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR WONDERING: Having purchased the brownies, the student could dispose of them as he wished. If other students were willing to spend $2 for $1 brownies, well—that's capitalism. Perhaps next year the teacher who sold the brownies should raise her rates.

DEAR ABBY: Why do friends ignore a woman after being friends for many years because she is now widowed? I am not the only one who says this. At the senior center they all agree.

I'm willing to pay my way for dinner, concerts, movies, etc. I don't expect anyone to pick up my tab. Still, I am no longer invited to lunch or dinner gatherings.

Someday, these friends may be in my position. They claim to be kind and caring individuals, and I miss them. I have invited them over, but they never reciprocate. What can I do?

LONELY WIDOW IN FORT MYERS, FLA.

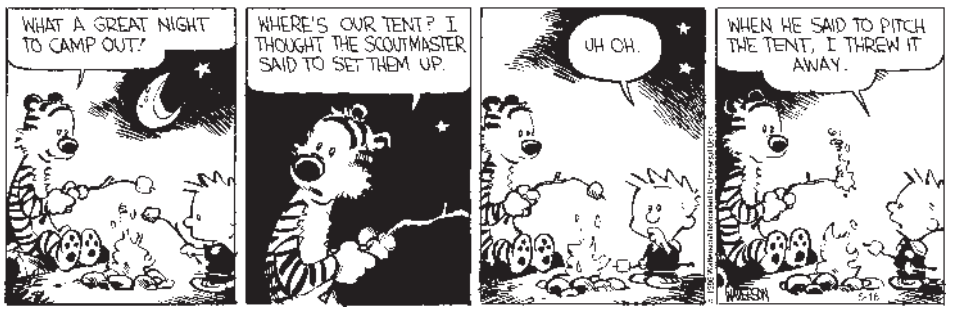
DEAR WIDOW: Unfortunately, there's not much you can do to change the behavior of the people you thought were your friends. However, that doesn't mean you must live in isolation. There are things you can do to lessen the loneliness you're experiencing. Chief among them would be to cultivate new interests and, along with them, new friends.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHAT A GREAT NIGHT TO CAMP OUT!
WHERE'S OUR TENT? I THOUGHT THE SCOUTMASTER SAID TO SET THEM UP.
UH OH.
WHEN HE SAID TO PITCH THE TENT, I THREW IT AWAY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OH, YEAH? OH, REALLY?
WELL, MAYBE I DON'T NEED YOUR STUPID NEWSLETTER JOB NOW THAT I'M GONNA BE A PUBLISHED AUTHOR! GOOD DAY!
Beep.
GOOD THING THIS BOOK DEAL IS A FOR-SURE, IRONCLAD THING.
DID YOU REALIZE THIS ACCEPTANCE LETTER IS PRINTED ON THE BACK OF A DELI MENU?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HERE. SLOW IT DOWN.
WHEN DID YOU START GETTING TICKETS WITH MY NAME PRE-PRINTED ON THEM?
WE FOUND A PRINTER WHO GIVES DISCOUNTS ON BULK ORDERS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pistol
4 Drone
7 "Coffee Cantata" composer
11 Met solo
13 Ecol. watchdog
14 Seized vehicle
15 Pealed
16 Soft shoe, for short
17 Persia, today
18 Backup strategy
20 Zilch
22 Flow out
24 Pitcher's motion
28 Critter that plays dead
32 Maxim
33 Daniel Craig role
34 Opposing vote
36 Perry's creator
37 "The best — to come!"
39 Halloween gourd
41 Southwestern cuisine
43 Ms. Farrow
44 Notion
46 Splendor
50 Verbal
53 Cagers' gp.
55 Poet Angelou
56 Teen fave
57 Not 'neath
58 Throat clearer
59 Huron, for one
60 Bottom line
61 Constitution letters

DOWN

1 John Irving hero
2 Russian river
3 1492 vessel
4 Haw's partner
5 Atop
6 Showy parrot
7 "Scarface" director
8 — Lingus
9 IRS employee
10 Sweetie
12 "Oklahoma!" choreographer
19 Small ammo
21 24 horas
23 Chignon
25 Unlit
26 Wrinkled fruit
27 Hammer part
28 Last writes?
29 Sit for a photo
30 Cameo stone
31 Pirate's chart
35 "Tasty!"
38 Actor Danson
40 "Top Gun" target
42 Noble gas
45 "... sting like —"
47 Honolulu's isle
48 Deli loaves
49 Thanksgiving veggies
50 Texas tea
51 Vitamin stat
52 Fine, at NASA
54 Curator's focus

Solution time: 27 mins.

V	A	N	N	A		R	I	B		E	R	S
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A	L	E	X		B	I	S	Q	U	E		
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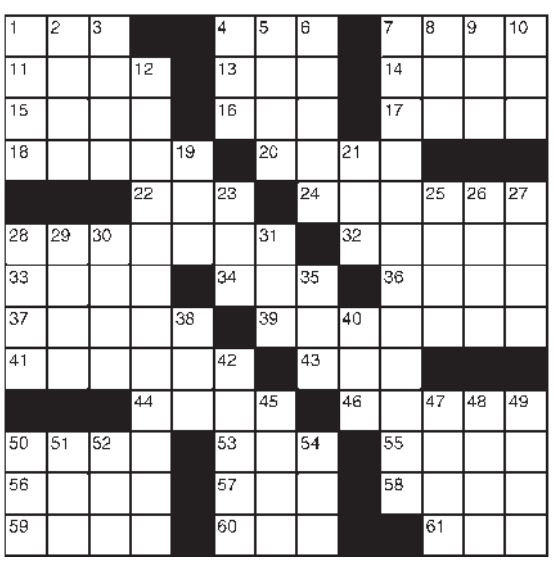
S	E	I		S	H	Y		S	I	A	R	S

Friday's answer 5 - 16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Megan Fox, 30; Tori Spelling, 43; Janet Jackson, 50; Pierce Brosnan, 63.

Happy Birthday: Step into the spotlight and share your ideas, solutions and concerns. You can make a difference if you participate. Don't be afraid to put a little muscle behind your beliefs or to journey down a path that will test your opinions. Your willingness to adopt what works best and to fight for what you want will be your ticket to success. Your numbers are 9, 13, 20, 24, 28, 42, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Learn as you go, add your experience to your resume and check out the online job market. You are overdue for a change and will be able to negotiate aggressively. A financial gain is within reach. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Look at the big picture and speak up about how you see things unfolding. Your insight and your ability to handle others will put you in a good position for advancement. Personal development will open up a window of opportunity. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Keep your thoughts to yourself. It's important not to follow the crowd or let temptation lead you down the wrong path. Focus on getting things done and keeping the peace with those you have to deal with on a daily basis. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Check out what's available to you and head in that direction. You can make valuable changes at home that will raise your standard of living. Follow your instincts when dealing with partners or work-related matters. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Listen earnestly, but don't be too quick to agree. You may want to consider doing your own thing and heading in a direction that will bring you closer to your goals. See what else is available. An unexpected opportunity is heading your way. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Look for answers and take advantage of any opportunity that comes your way. You stand to prosper if you are willing to make a move when the time is right. Don't be fooled by what others do. Believe in yourself. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Stay focused on what's important. Listen to what friends and relatives have to say and try to work with the people who are genuinely trying to help you. Common sense and a good health plan will encourage you to make positive changes. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Your vivid imagination will play a role in how you handle others and what you are willing to do to make your relationships work better. A good partnership will help you advance in all aspects of your life. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll get the most done if you work from home. Bring about positive changes and eliminate whatever is dragging you down. Sometimes you have to walk away from adversity. Don't let a no-win situation tie up your time. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let an emotional situation stand between you and victory. Do whatever it takes to broaden your horizons by turning what you have into something even greater. Romance is on the rise and working with someone you love will pay off. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Offer your expertise and show off what you have to offer. Don't let someone who is jealous of you keep you from doing what you do best. If you want positive changes to unfold, it's up to you to make it happen. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your interest in what others are doing will pay off. Use your past experiences and connections to help you achieve your present goals. Mixing the old with the new will have its rewards. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are proud, complex and original. You are goal-oriented and strong-minded.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9				2		
7	8		9		4		3	6
4				3				8
	1		2		6		9	
8								2
	7		3		1		6	
2				4				3
5	6		7		2		8	1
		7				5		

Difficulty Level ★ 5/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

2	4	9	3	1	7	6	5	8
1	7	8	9	6	5	3	2	4
3	5	6	8	4	2	7	1	9
5	2	3	1	7	8	9	4	6
8	9	1	4	5	6	2	7	3
7	6	4	2	3	9	5	8	1
4	1	7	6	2	3	8	9	5
9	3	5	7	8	1	4	6	2
6	8	2	5	9	4	1	3	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/21

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

CAMPING WITH KIDS Solution: 12 letters

S	S	E	O	N	A	C	A	B	I	N	S	M	A	S
L	W	S	G	U	R	A	E	G	N	I	A	R	K	H
E	A	I	A	N	T	R	A	I	L	S	E	C	R	A
E	A	N	M	P	I	D	O	O	F	L	O	S	B	T
P	V	C	O	M	M	K	O	H	O	S	M	A	A	S
I	A	O	T	I	I	O	I	O	T	A	D	E	C	T
N	P	R	T	I	T	N	C	H	R	V	H	N	K	E
G	A	E	K	S	V	A	G	L	E	S	E	E	P	K
B	D	Y	L	S	M	I	E	N	E	G	X	E	A	N
A	D	A	O	P	L	R	T	R	S	A	P	R	C	A
G	L	L	E	H	U	U	O	I	C	M	L	C	K	L
H	E	R	S	T	R	M	F	R	E	E	O	S	N	B
S	S	A	A	E	S	K	C	A	N	S	R	N	I	U
I	L	N	R	E	T	N	A	L	W	L	E	U	F	G
F	I	R	E	S	T	A	R	T	E	R	S	S	E	S

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Last Thursday's Answer: Councillor

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Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney.for Petitioner: Wilfred P. Kaipat

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIAN AS ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:	Civil Action No. 16- 0060-CV
FERMINA RABAULIMAN KAIPAT aka FILIMENIA RABAULIMAN KAIPAT/ FELOMENIA RABAULIMAN,	**NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING ON VERIFIED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR**
Decedent.	**And**
	NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE FERMINA RABAULIMAN KAIPAT OR OF HER ESTATE .

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Wilfred Pangalinan Kaipat, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Fermina Rabauliman Kaipat, Deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the Petition by Wilfred P. Kaipat, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on May 31, 2016 at 1:30 PM , at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims wi th the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) wi ll be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to Petitioner's counsel, at the address herein-above indicated .

Dated this 12th day of April, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Deputy Clerk of Court

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(1) Manager
Must have 3 years experience in Managing Marine Sports Operation. Can speak Korean, English and Chinese. Please send your resume at Santos_adonis@yahoo.com
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Peter A. Cruz
Address: P.O. Box 7446 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 670.789.2391

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Cruz, Peter A. Jr. Petitioner,	FCD-DI CA-16-0175
vs.	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
Cruz, Michelle C. Respondent	

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 7746 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filling your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court of this Court at P.O. Box 500307, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 28th day of April, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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Find today's solution in classified section

Day sets 36-hole record, then hangs on at Players

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Jason Day saw The Players Championship at its easiest and toughest, all in the span of nine hours Saturday on what felt like two golf courses.

He set a record when it felt like a shootout.

He was even stronger when the TPC Sawgrass turned into a battle for survival.

And when a long, wild and utterly exhausting day was finally over, the world's No. 1 player could take solace that he still had a four-shot lead.

"I want to say this was the toughest day I've ever had to play in my life," Day said after gutting out a 1-over 73 going into the final round. "I want to win this tournament so bad. I really do. ... But right now, I'm just trying to focus on trying to play well tomorrow. I mean, that's all you could do is just try to survive."

The difference between morning and afternoon was more like night and day.

Day finished his storm-delayed second round with a 66 to set the 36-hole record at 15-under 199, and it appeared he would take aim at more records. And then it all changed. The PGA Tour rolled the greens one more time. The wind picked up. The air dried out. The sun baked out the course.

AP

Jason Day of Australia, looks at his shot on the ninth green during the third round of The Players Championship golf tournament Saturday, May 14, 2016, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Day had two double-bogeys and a bogey in the first nine holes.

Suddenly, the greens were like putting on glass.

Day four-putted from 18 feet for a double bogey. He made another double bogey two holes later. But right when it looked like he would fall victim to the fierce conditions, the 28-year-old Australian played the final 10 holes with three birdies and seven pars to reach 14-under 202 and keep his big lead.

More than excited about a chance to win the PGA Tour's premier event, he is worried about facing similar conditions Sunday.

"That would just ruin everything," he said. "That won't make it fun for ... we were out there for nearly six hours today trying to play 18 holes. They made the course pretty much nearly unplayable. If they do make it like that, then I'm just going to have to grind my hardest to win the tournament, and I'm OK with that.

"I won't stop until it's done, and I can rest after that."

It wasn't unplayable for everyone.

Ken Duke in the round of a lifetime made six birdies over his last seven holes for a 65, which was more than 10 shots better than the average score. He was tied for second with Hideki Matsuyama, who made seven birdies in his round of 67. Joining them at 10-under 206 was Alex Cejka, who shot a 72 that felt much lower.

"I don't know what they did to the golf course overnight, but it was playing like a U.S. Open," Cejka said. "It was just lightning-fast greens."

Sixth of the 76 players who made the cut had a double bogey or worse.

There were 149 three-putts—or worse—in the third round. Sergio Garcia took six putts from just off the sixth green. Paul Casey took five putts from about 8 feet on the 15th hole. There was rare a lag putt. The putts wouldn't stop rolling.

"A 10-foot putt felt like it was 60 feet away," Day said.

There was still the traditional trouble at the Stadium Course. Russell Knox hit three shots in the water on the island-green 17th and made a 9 that ruined his round (he shot 80) and his chances. Kevin Chappell had to play his second shot with his feet on the planks framing the water on the 18th hole. Having made two eagles, he closed with a double bogey to fall six shots back after a 70 that felt a lot better.

Jordan Spieth, Phil Mickelson and defending champion Rickie Fowler all missed the cut when the storm-delayed second round was completed Saturday morning. If there was a consolation, it was not having to take on Sawgrass and its scariest.

Day had his moments.

His first blunder was a four-putt double bogey on the sixth hole, which started with an 18-foot birdie putt that he nearly made. It could have been worse. His 5-foot putt for double bogey nearly spun out of the cup. He answered with a wedge to 2 feet for birdie, but then had more trouble off the green at the par-3 eighth. This time, he had to make a 6-foot putt for double bogey.

And while his card was clean on the back nine, the biggest break of all came at the 15th. He was short of the green in three, certain to drop at least two shots, when Day chipped in from just over 50 feet for par. Then, he pounded a 3-wood and hit a towering 8-iron to 6 feet on the par-5 16th. He missed the putt and had to settle for birdie, made a 10-foot par putt on the 17th and finished with a solid par.

One more round, and no one is sure what to expect now.

Game 7 to finally decide Raptors-Heat winner, Cavs' opponent

MIAMI (AP)—History is going to happen.

Either Toronto or Miami will become the 15th NBA team to win two Game 7s in the same postseason. The Raptors could go to the Eastern Conference finals for the first time. The Heat have a shot at being the first team ever to erase 3-2 deficits in consecutive playoff series.

And if that wasn't enough, LeBron James awaits the winner in the East finals.

The stage is set, the stakes are super-high. The final second-round game of this year's playoffs is Sunday afternoon in Toronto, where the Raptors and Heat will play Game 7 and finally decide their back-and-forth, black-and-blue series. The winner will join Golden State, Oklahoma City and Cleveland as the four teams left standing in the chase for the NBA championship.

"This is why we're in this business, to be pushed and tested and challenged," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said Saturday. "There's no greater challenge than a Game 7."

The Heat fended off elimination Friday, going with a super-small lineup and beating the Raptors 103-91 in Miami to force a winner-take-all game. Miami won a Game 7 in the first round, topping Charlotte at home. Toronto also successfully defended home-court in a first-round Game 7, and this series has gone just as that one against Indiana did—Raptors lose at home, win at home, win on the road, lose on the road, win at home, lose on the road.

They hope history repeats itself one more time Sunday.

"Game 7 in the first round was a little more tight," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. "This one Sunday will be `Just go out there and hoop."

Every team and every year is different, but closeouts seem to never come easily for Toronto.

The Raptors are 2-6 all-time when they have a chance to eliminate an opponent, and lost a Game 7 at home two years ago to Brooklyn—a team that featured current Heat forward Joe Johnson. Lowry and backcourt mate DeMar DeRozan are averaging a combined 42.7 points in the series, but are still shooting a combined 38 percent.

"Our backs will be against the wall," Raptors forward DeMarre Carroll said. "It's Game 7 on our home court with our home crowd. What better place do you want to be?"

The Heat, meanwhile, oddly seem to thrive when in trouble.

Miami has won its last four Game 7s, could join the Lakers and Celtics as the only franchises to win five straight, and are 7-1 in its last eight games when facing elimination. And Miami has somehow won its last three series after falling into a 3-2 hole.

"You've got to give a little more," said Heat guard Dwyane Wade, the leading scorer in the series at 25.2 points per game. "You've got to do a little more. Obviously, it's a great environment to be in. ... It's phenomenal. But you've got to give everything you have. There's no tomorrow. That's the way we approach it. I think it's going to be two teams trying to give everything they have. Best team win, man."

Warriors rest up, gear up to face Thunder

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Stephen Curry surprised coach Steve Kerr with how quickly he found his groove the past two games after returning from a right knee injury, even with a few more misses than usual for the MVP.

Now, Curry and the Golden State Warriors push into the Western Conference finals against Oklahoma City counting on their superstar to be fully healthy for an entire round for the first time this postseason.

There's no way he won't be making as big an impact as he possibly can as the defending champions move closer to their goal of a repeat title.

"Hopefully, it will be close to 100 percent by Monday night," Curry said after Friday's practice.

Fellow Splash Brother Klay Thompson, who carried the load on both ends of the floor during Curry's absence for much of the first two rounds, is counting on it.

So far, Curry's return has been seamless—even more so than Kerr had foreseen. The Coach of the Year figured there might be a transition period as everybody got comfortable again.

"It has (been smooth)," Thompson said. "Anyone can see that. He hasn't missed a beat."

Draymond Green practiced after injuring his left ankle during Wednesday's series clincher against Portland, while 7-foot center Andrew Bogut sat out Friday's workout with a strained muscle in his right leg.

The hope is that Bogut will return to practice Saturday and be ready for Monday night's Game 1 of the best-of-seven series against the Thunder at Oracle Arena. An MRI wasn't in the plans for Bogut's injury, Kerr said.

After a whirlwind week that included becoming the NBA's first unanimous MVP on Tuesday, Curry looked forward to taking some much-needed downtime between now and the next round to rest his body and mind.

"You go from missing three weeks, two and a half weeks to playing significant minutes in 48 hours, especially with what the day in between was like, it kind of shocks your body," Curry said. "So you've got to take advantage of these three days we have off to get refreshed and rejuvenated mentally and physically, and get ready to play."

Big Papi puts on show, lifts Red Sox vs Astros

BOSTON (AP)—David Ortiz doubled with two outs in the 11th inning after lining a tying triple in the ninth and earlier moving into 20th place on the career home run list, sending the Boston Red Sox past the Houston Astros 6-5 on Saturday.

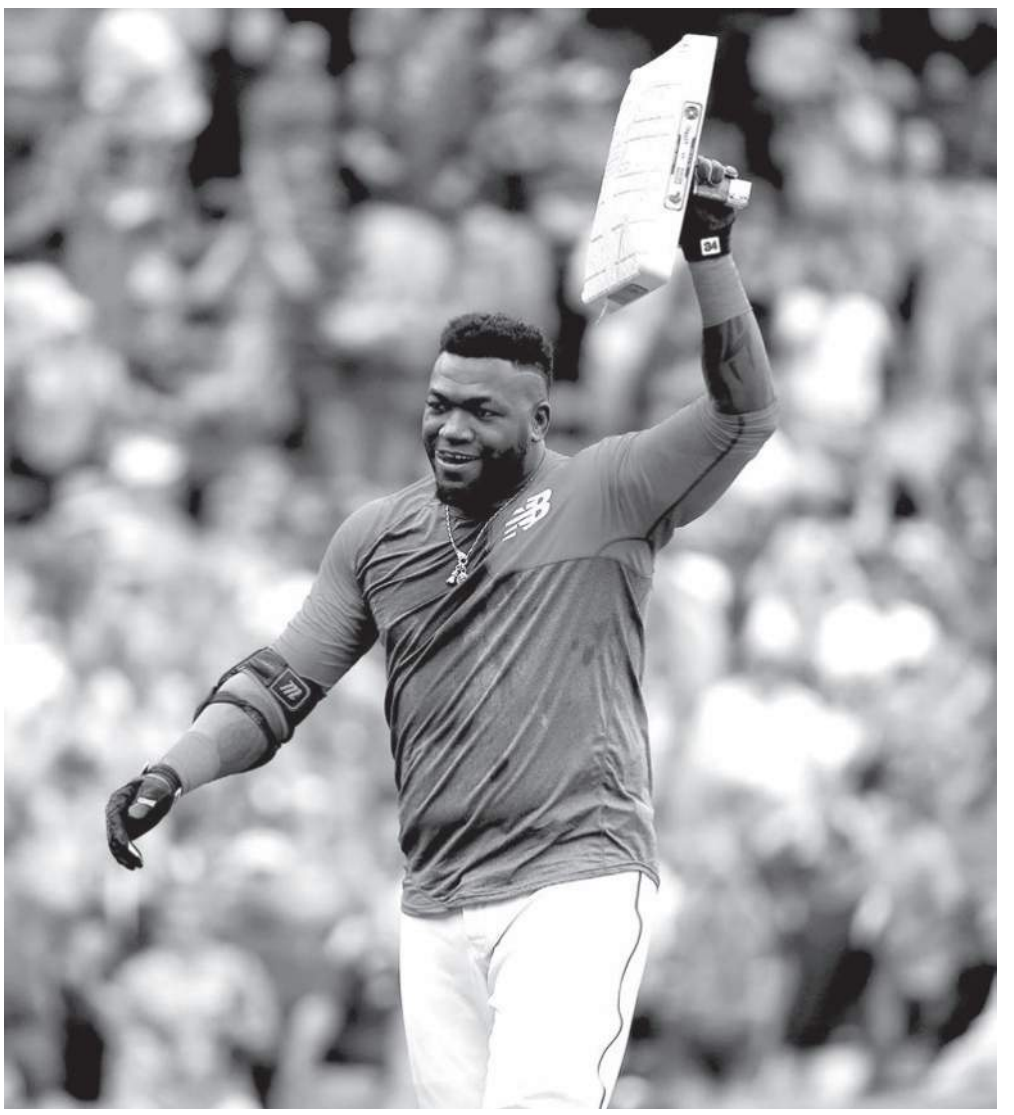
Boston's Jackie Bradley Jr. singled in the first inning, extending the majors' longest hitting streak to 20 games.

George Springer hit a grand slam and Carlos Correa a solo homer for the Astros.

Ortiz broke a tie with Ernie Banks and Eddie Mathews with his 513th homer

Houston led 5-4 with two outs in the ninth when Ortiz hit an RBI triple just past diving center fielder Jake Marisnick. After sliding into third, 40-year-old Big Papi got up and pumped both fists toward his dugout following his first triple since June 15, 2013.

In the 11th, Xander Bogaerts singled with two outs against Michael Feliz (1-1) and advanced on a wild pitch before Ortiz hit a drive off the base of the center-field wall for his 600th career double.



Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz holds up second base after hitting the game-winning RBI double during the 11th inning of a baseball game against the Houston Astros in Boston, Saturday, May 14, 2016. The Red Sox won, 6-5.

Nationals 6, Marlins4, Marlins 7, Nationals 1

In Washington, Marcell Ozuna and J.T. Realmuto each drove in two runs and Miami beat Washington to split a doubleheader.

The Nationals won the opener 6-4 behind six strong innings from Stephen Strasburg (6-0). Right after the final out, Washington announced that Bryce Harper had dropped his appeal of a one-game suspension and would sit out the nightcap for his behavior following an ejection on Monday.

The Marlins battered Nationals starter Tanner Roark (2-3) for seven runs in five innings.

Angels 9, Mariners 7

In Seattle, Albert Pujols hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning to fuel a second rally in Los Angeles' win over Seattle.

The Angels trailed 2-1 before taking the lead with a five-run seventh, but then Seattle came back with a five-run eighth. Steve Clevenger had a two-out RBI single to cap the inning for a 7-6 lead heading into the ninth.

Closer Steve Cishek (2-3) couldn't save it. With one out, he hit Kole Calhoun with a pitch and Mike Trout singled to right. Pujols then hit his eighth home run on a 1-1 slider.

Orioles 9, Tigers 3

In Baltimore, Jonathan Schoop hit two home runs, including a grand slam, and Baltimore stretched its winning streak to seven games.

Matt Wieters and Adam Jones also homered for the Orioles, who will seek to complete a four-game sweep Sunday.

Schoop hit a solo shot in the seventh and his second career slam in the eighth to finish with a career-high five RBI.

Rockies 7, Mets 4

In Denver, DJ LeMahieu and Tony Wolters had two hits and two RBI apiece and Colorado beat New York.

Trevor Story and Gerardo Parra also had two hits for Colorado, which has won three straight at home for the first time this season.

Mets starter Logan Verrett (3-1) struggled in the same place where he earned his first win in his major league debut.

Dodgers 5, Cardinals 3

In Los Angeles, Scott Kazmir pitched 8 2/3 innings and Adrian Gonzalez and Corey Seager homered in Los Angeles' victory over St. Louis Cardinals.

Gonzalez hit a home run, his fourth of the season, to lead off the fourth inning. Seager, who had three hits, ripped a solo home run in the seventh inning.

Kazmir (3-3) allowed three runs on five hits, struck out seven and walked one. He was nearly flawless until Jeremy Hazelbaker hit a pinch-hit, two-run home run to pull the Cardinals within two runs in the ninth.

Giants 5, Diamonbacks 3

In Phoenix, Buster Posey hit a two-run double in the ninth inning and Hunter Pence had his 200th career home run to lead San Francisco to a win over Arizona.

San Francisco led 3-1 after Jake Peavy's six strong innings, but the bullpen couldn't hold the lead.

Jean Segura pulled the Diamondbacks within one on an RBI groundout in the seventh inning and pinch hitter Phil Gosselin tied it with a sacrifice fly in the eighth off Hunter Strickland (1-0).

Rangers 6, Blue Jays 5, 10 innings

In Arlington, Drew Stubbs homered with two outs in the 10th inning, helping Texas beat Toronto after the Blue Jays rallied with consecutive homers in the ninth to force extra innings.

Justin Smoak hit a two-run homer and Troy Tulowitzki followed with a tying shot off closer Shawn Tolleson. Tolleson has a 7.07 ERA and has blown two of his past four save opportunities.

Braves 5, Royals 0

In Kansas City, Mike Foltynewicz pitched a career-high eight scoreless innings, Kelly Johnson and A.J. Pierzynski each drove in two runs, and Atlanta beat Kansas City.

Foltynewicz (1-1) got his first victory since Aug. 8, holding the Royals to seven hits, while striking out four and walking none. The Braves (9-26) avoided matching the worst 35-game start in franchise history—8-27, set by the 1911 Boston Braves.

Phillies 4, Reds 3

In Philadelphia, Tyler Goeddel threw out Eugenio Suarez with catcher Cameron Rupp holding onto the ball following a violent collision to end the game and Philadelphia held on to beat Cincinnati.

Aaron Nola (3-2) tied a career high with nine strikeouts in seven stingy innings, Odubel Herrera hit a solo homer and David Hernandez pitched out of a jam for his first save since July 12, 2013, for Arizona against Milwaukee.

Yankees 2, White Sox 1

In New York, Dellin Betances, Andrew Miller and Aroldis Chapman combined for scoreless relief and struck out eight as New York used its three big bullpen arms in the same game for the first time to secure a victory.

Ivan Nova pitched neatly into the sixth inning to give New York's ailing rotation a much-needed boost. Aaron Hicks hit an RBI double and Didi Gregorius added a run-scoring single with two outs in the second.

Cubs 8, Pirates 2

In Chicago, unbeaten Jake Arrieta struck out 11 in eight innings, Anthony Rizzo drove in four runs and Chicago remained perfect against Pittsburgh.

Arrieta (7-0) improved to 18-0 in 20 outings since Aug. 1. The Cubs have won his last 21 starts, extending a franchise record.

The reigning NL Cy Young Award winner gave up three hits and two runs, leaving with a 1.29 ERA.

Rizzo belted a towering three-run homer in the fourth. Addison Russell hit a two-run homer as major league-leading Chicago improved to 5-0 against Pittsburgh.

Twins 6, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Juan Centeno took Corey Kluber deep for his first major league homer, Ervin Santana allowed one run in six innings and Minnesota ended an eight-game losing streak.

Centeno's two-run homer in the fifth landed in the right field seats and put Minnesota on top for good.

Santana (1-2) gave up five hits and struck out five in his second start since returning from a back injury.

Rays 6, Athletics 0

In St. Peterburg, Matt Andriese pitched a two-hitter for his first career shutout and Brad Miller hit a two-run home run, leading Tampa Bay to a victory.

Andriese (2-0) won for the second time this week in helping the Rays end a four-game losing streak. He beat the Los Angeles Angels 3-1 on Sunday in his first start since being called up from Triple-A Durham. The right-hander struck out five and walked none, and retired 11 straight at one point.

Padres 8, Brewers7, 12 innings

In Milwaukee, Derek Norris and Melvin Upton Jr. hit back-to-back solo homers in the top of the 12th inning to lift San Diego past Milwaukee.

Norris and Upton went deep against Brewers reliever Chris Capuano (1-1), with Upton's shot ricocheting off the black backdrop beyond center for a two-run lead.

Saints coaches: Top pick Rankins in good shape, learns fast

METAIRIE, La. (AP)—New Orleans Saints first-round draft choice Sheldon Rankins can accept people calling him boring, as long they're referring to the way he spends time away from football.

"I'd use, `laid back,' but whatever word you guys choose to use is fine with me," the 6-foot-1, 299-pound defensive tackle said as Saints rookie camp wound down Saturday. "I'm a real simple, laid-back guy. If I'm not doing anything football related, I'm usually just kind of hanging out, relaxing."

The 12th overall pick doesn't even have much experience with social media, having only recently set up an account with the website Twitter. His account, as of Saturday afternoon, showed that he'd posted a total of eight messages—all of them football related.

Indeed, Rankins figures he'll need plenty of rest and minimal off-the-field distractions if he is to meet the Saints' expectations of him. When Rankins was drafted, Saints coach Sean Payton said he viewed his new defensive lineman as versatile enough to play on any down, and in short—or long-yardage situations. They want the former Louisville standout to alternately stuff the run and collapse opposing quarterbacks' pass protection up the middle.

Certainly, that's what the Saints need after ranking second-to-last in the NFL in total defense last season and 25th in the league in sacks with 31.

"Obviously, he's a guy that we had targeted. We were lucky to get him. He's an outstanding young man and I expect him to do what it takes to become a good player," Saints defensive line coach Bill Johnson said.

Johnson said it isn't realistic right now to make an evaluation of any rookie that would project accurately into the regular season. Players were not even wearing full pads in rookie camp. But what he saw of Rankins, he liked.

"We saw a lot of athleticism. We saw explosiveness. He's very efficient in his movement," Johnson said. "We don't know if he's a three-down player yet. ... It's just way too early to tell, but I think from a prospect standpoint, as Sean likes to say, he had a lot of the boxes checked."

4 qualify in girls main draw of Jr. ITF event

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three players from Japan and one from Hong Kong completed the main draw of the girls singles competition in the 2016 IT&E Northern Marianas Juniors Championships after they survived the qualifier yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club.

Sophia Hamada downed fellow Japanese Mua Shigeta, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2, to make the grade and will be joined in the main draw by compatriots Saki Oyama and Mana Kawamura, and Hong Kong's Alicue Yue. Yue also needed three sets to beat Nanaka Okamoto, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1, while Oyama eased past India's Amritalakshmi Shanmugam, 6-0, 6-2. Kawamura, on the other hand, automatically qualified to the main draw after drawing a bye in the seven-player qualifying tournament.

The girls main draw has yet to be released, but according to the tournament website, the acceptance roster in the division have 23 players, including six from the CNMI. Carol Lee, who made it to the quarterfinals of last week's 2016 Chuck E. Cheese's ITF Junior Championships in Guam, will lead the host's campaign in the girls field and will be joined by Tania Tan, Malika Miyawaki, Ami Tsukagoshi, Asia Raulerson, and Isabel Heras.

The U.S. Sara Tsukamoto, who was the runner-up in the Guam event and is ranked at No. 492 in the ITF Juniors, world No. 295 Rika Tanaka of Japan, and No. 358 Claudia Ng headline the girls main draw. Several other players who competed in the Guam tournament are also on Saipan for another Grade 5 event. The list includes Palau's Ayana Rengiil and more Chinese-Taipei, Hong Kong, and Japan bets.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The U.S.' Sara Tsukamoto returns to the CNMI's Carol Lee during their quarterfinal game in last week's 2016 Chuck E. Cheese's ITF Junior Championships in Guam. Both players will be seeing action in this week's 2016 IT&E Northern Marianas Juniors Championships at the Pacific Islands Club.

Meanwhile, the qualifying tournament for the boys singles also kicked off yesterday with eight players advancing to the second round.

The Philippines' Benjaminjacob Martin swept Japan's Yuta Miura, 6-3, 6-0, to set up a meeting with Hong Kong's Matthew Lee for one of the two qualifying slots at the upper half of the draw. Yee moved a win away from earning a ticket to the boys main draw after eliminating Japan's Kaito Tanitsu, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

The other main draw spots at the top half of the draw will be contested by Australia's Ethan Shoesmith and Japan's Taiyo Yamanaka. The Aussie bet advanced after beating Japan's Haruka Aomizu, 7-6 (4), 6-2, while Yamanaka ousted Hong Kong's Tsz Yeung Chan, 7-5, 6-4.

At the lower half of the draw, South Korea's Min Seok Sim, Australia's Quang Hen Pham and Charles Dossetter, and Japan's Ryuhei Azuma will battle for the two main draw seats. Dossetter boosted his chances to play in the main draw following a 6-2, 6-4 triumph over Japan's Goki Satoi. He will be up against Azuma, who knocked off Hong Kong's Kyle Tang, 7-5, 6-1. Pham also took only two sets to top Japan's Makoto Mizokawa, 6-0, 6-1, and forge a showdown against Sim, a 6-1, 6-0 winner over Japan's Kanata Abe.

The four games in the last round of the qualifier will be played today with the winners joining Top 2 seeds Cing Yang Meng and Cheng-Chieh Wang of Chinese-Taipei to the main-draw, which as of May 11 has 23 players.

The main draw for both girls and boys singles are expected to be released later this afternoon as the sign-up deadline for both competitions is set for 4pm today, while games will begin tomorrow.

Tinian bring home 34 medals from All Schools meet

The Tinian Junior Senior High School's track and field team participated in the 2016 PSS/ McDonalds All Schools Athletics Championships held on Saipan from May 4 to 7 and brought home 34 medals.

"It was a very successful year for the Stallions. The students placed commendably in different age group categories and came home with a total of 34 medals," stated in a press release from Bridge Investment Group, LLC, which supported the squad.

Leading parent coordinator and volunteer Julian Hofschneider, along with another fellow parent volunteer Eptis Epity, started preparing and training as many as 25 students for this event since January this year.

Bridge Investment Group supported the team by purchasing 26 sets of uniforms for the Stallions, including the coaches and parent chaperones.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Junior Senior High School's track and field team members and officials and representatives from Bridge Investment Group, LLC pose for a group photo before leaving for Saipan to compete in the All Schools meet held early this month.

"As you're very much aware, being from a small island does not provide enough exposure to our children and these types of opportunities will show our students that, regardless of where they come from, with perseverance and hard work, they can just be as good, or even better as others. It will hopefully give them the self-confidence to tackle any situation that they face in life. So, Thank you BIG for supporting our young athletes," Hofschneider said. ***(PR)***

SPC

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avenged Napu's loss to the former in another neck-and-neck preliminary race. SPC clocked in at 4:15 against Napu's 4:18

In the women's 500, SPC won both the preliminary and finals with times of 4:40 and 4:46, respectively. Napu submitted 5:23 in the preliminary and improved its time in the finals (5:20:13). The Lady Eagles logged 5:27in the finals—a few seconds faster than their preliminary mark.

In the women's 250m, there was also a close race between SPC and Napu with the former recording 2:26 in the finals to edge the 2:29 of Napu. GCA posted 2:36. In the men's 250m, SPC also prevailed, timing in at 2:04 against the 2:07 of Napu and 2:12 of the Eagles.

Meanwhile, the second and last part of the All CNMI Juniors Outrigger Regatta 2016 will take place this Saturday, also at Kilili Beach. CNMI Paddle Sports Association, Napu, SPC, and Hoe Lokahi Outrigger Canoe Club have team up to hold competitions for junior paddlers after the MISO outrigger canoe season for the 2015-2016 school year was canceled.

LITTLE

From Page 28

gelinan reached off passed balls for their 5-1 advantage.

The scores did not change after four complete innings, as the Braves had back-to-back 1-2-3 innings, while the Little Legals were also done after only three batters at the top of the fourth.

The Little Legals then came out swinging at the top of fifth, delivering seven runs to set up the easy win one inning early. Lucio Aldan starred in the penultimate inning as the hit a two-RBI double and also scored off the Braves' error at second base. The Little Legals four other runs also came off the Braves' defensive miscues.

Now down by 11, the Braves must make at least two runs to stay in the game. However, they could not handle the pressure as leadoff batter Isidro Cabrera went out on a 5-3 play, while Ignacio Aldan was left stranded at second after Delbert Sablan retired Joel Borja and Christopher Pangelinan.

Meanwhile, pitchers Keoni Serrano and Kyle Kapileo combined for a three-hitter and 15 strikeouts in the Falcons' shutout of IT&E

Serrano started out for the Falcons and threw a two-hitter in three innings pitched, while fanning out seven batters. Kapileo took over the mound at the beginning of the bottom of the fourth and after giving up a double in his first throw, he settled down and retired eight batters, while walking only two.

With the Falcons getting solid games from their pitchers, the closest that IT&E could get to scoring position came only in the fourth inning as after Patrick Celis doubled, he reached third off a passed ball. He was eventually left stranded at third along with Jay Palacios at second, as Kapileo got three straight strikeouts. Kapileo duplicated the feat at the top of the fifth for a 1-2-3 inning.

Kapileo also scored a run at the bottom of the fifth, while Serrano had an RBI single for the Falcons' 5-0 advantage. The two pitchers also logged the Falcons' two runs in the first inning, while Mike Tomokane delivered an RBI single in the fourth.

Kapileo went on to close out the match with two straight strikeouts, leaving Celis stranded again, this time at first. Keith Aldan led off for IT&E at the top of the sixth and flied out to first.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	23	12	.657	—
Boston	23	14	.622	1
Toronto	19	19	.500	5½
Tampa Bay	16	18	.471	6½
New York	15	20	.429	8

Central Division

Chicago	24	13	.649	—
Cleveland	17	16	.515	5
Kansas City	17	19	.472	6½
Detroit	15	21	.417	8½
Minnesota	9	26	.257	14

West Division

Seattle	21	15	.583	—
Texas	21	16	.568	½
Los Angeles	15	21	.417	6
Oakland	15	22	.405	6½
Houston	15	23	.395	7

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	23	14	.622	—
Philadelphia	22	15	.595	1
New York	21	15	.583	1½
Miami	19	17	.528	3½
Atlanta	9	26	.257	13

Central Division

Chicago	27	8	.771	—
St. Louis	19	18	.514	9
Pittsburgh	18	17	.514	9
Milwaukee	15	22	.405	13
Cincinnati	14	22	.389	13½

West Division

Los Angeles	20	17	.541	—
San Francisco	21	18	.538	—
Colorado	18	18	.500	1½
San Diego	17	21	.447	3½
Arizona	17	22	.436	4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NMISF Closing Swim Meet

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru swims in the 200m butterfly event in last week's NMISF Closing Swim Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Swimmers wait for the whistle during the 400m freestyle race.

Tsunami Saipan's Nelson Batallones races in the 400m freestyle event.

Swimmers get ready at the starting block for the 100m backstroke event.

Saipan Swim Club's R.J. Pierce nears completion of the first lap of the 200m breaststroke event.

Angel Marie Tan swims in the 100m breaststroke event.

A Saipan Swim Club swimmer joins the 50m freestyle race.

Tsunami Saipan's Mark Maestro competes in the 200m breaststroke race.

Saipan Swim Club's Dominic Zedde gets ready at the starting block for the 100m freestyle event.

Day sets 36-hole record, then hangs on at Players

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Big Papi puts on show, lifts Red Sox vs Astros

PAGE 25

Little Legals vs Falcons in semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Kagman Little Legals and Talaabwogh Falcons set up their semis duel in the Majors division of the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball after eliminating their respective playoff opponents yesterday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Falcons made it to the Final Four round ahead of the Little Legals after shutting down IT&E Regulators in the second game, 5-0. The Little Legals followed suit, easing past the Braves, 12-1, in the third match in the quarterfinal round, which was originally scheduled for Saturday, but was moved to yesterday due to rain.

Relief pitcher Delbert Sablan had a no-no to lift the Little Legals to the early win via 10-run mercy rule.

Sablan worked the mound in 3. 1 innings and started his shift with a strikeout to end the botom of the second inning. He retired four more batters in the ensuing innings and complemented his good pitching with a 2-for-3 performance at bat while scoring a double, single, and two runs.

Sablan came in for Justin Agulto, who began the game by striking out the Braves' first three batters, but struggled in the second, prompting the Little Legals to call in Sablan. Agulto left the mound after giving up an RBI single to Jylon Sablan, walking four runners, and fanning out one with the game tied, 1-all.

A four-run top of the third broke the deadlock and the Little Legals never looked back from thereon. Delbert Sablan had an RBI single and stole home in the third, while Gunner Sablan and John Pan-

See LITTLE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Alexiana Tyquengco beats the Braves pitcher and catcher to home plate during the top of the fifth inning of their quarterfinal game in the Majors division of the SLLB yesterday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

SPC rules first leg of junior outrigger tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

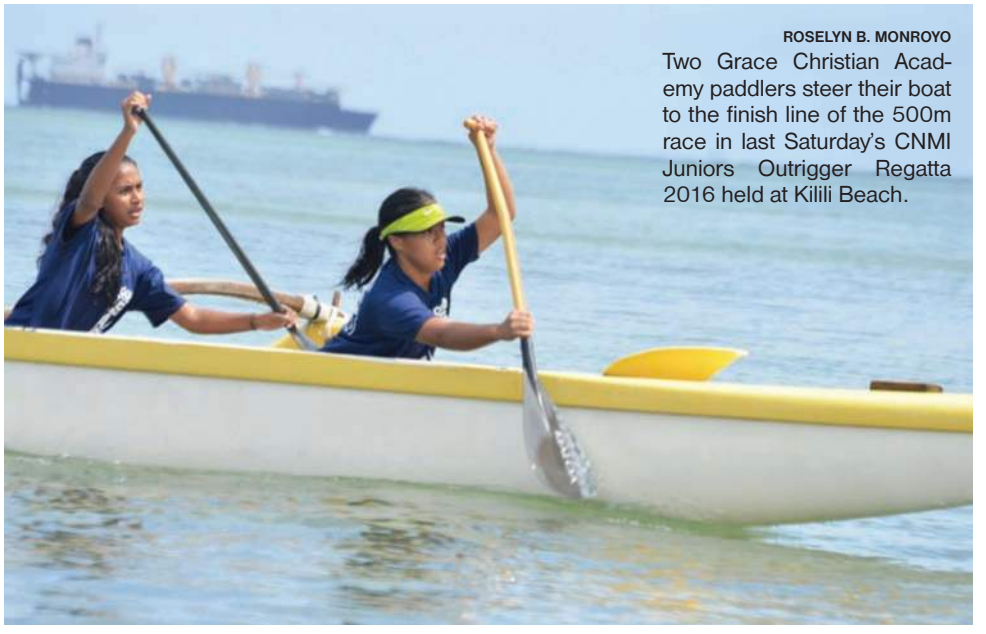
Saipan Paddling Club drew first blood in the All CNMI Juniors Outrigger Regatta 2016 after topping three finale races in last Saturday's competition held at Kilili Beach.

The club's junior paddlers won the women's 500m and 250m final races and ruled the men's 250m. Napu Outrigger Canoe Club averted SPC's bid for a sweep of the first of the two-part tournament after prevailing in the 500m event.

The men's 500m finale was the closest race in the weekend's contest. Organizers did not list down the official times of each event, so *Saipan Tribune* did its own timing and had Napu completing the two-lap course in 4:20, just two seconds ahead of SPC. The two rivals along with Grace Christian Academy paddlers were in a tight race at the halfway mark of the course before Napu managed to gain a narrow lead, heading into the last 50m. It was a down-to-the wire finish then with Napu, which was positioned on the right side of the course (facing the beach), holding on to the slim lead against SPC, which was sandwiched by the winning paddlers and GCA. The Eagles timed in at 4:55

The finals win against SPC

See SPC on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two Grace Christian Academy paddlers steer their boat to the finish line of the 500m race in last Saturday's CNMI Juniors Outrigger Regatta 2016 held at Kilili Beach.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Paddling Club members paddle their way to a first place finish during the 500m preliminary race in last Saturday's CNMI Juniors Outrigger Regatta 2016 at Kilili Beach.